PACUC Newsletter

Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee **Purdue University**
http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/nielsen/PACUC/animals.html

Vol. 17, No. 1, March 2002

Summer 2002 PACUC Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Deadline Date for Protocol Submission
June 19	May 29 at 5:00 p.m.
July 17	June 26 at 5:00 p.m.
August 14	July 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Please contact Lisa Snider (ldsnider@purdue.edu) if you have any questions regarding these dates. Thank you.

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April-June PACUC Orientation Programs Offered

The orientation program for **new** faculty, staff, and students, who will be using animals in research, teaching, and/or testing, will be held on the following dates during the spring semester:

Tuesday, April 2 – 1:30-3:00 p.m. (place to be announced at a later date.)

Tuesday, May 7 – 9:30-11:00 a.m. (place to be announced at a later date.)

Wednesday, June 5 – 1:30-3:00 p.m. (place to be announced at a later date.)

Attendance at one of these sessions is mandatory for personnel (faculty, staff, students) who initiated work with vertebrate animals on or after March 6, 2002 (this was the last date the session was offered) or those who wish to initiate work with vertebrate animals in the future. Personnel will not be approved to work with animals until such time that they have attended one of these meetings. This program presented by staff of the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee and the Laboratory Animal Program is designed to introduce new personnel to the Purdue system for maintaining regulatory compliance with federal and University guidelines and ensuring humane care and use of laboratory animals.

Please register for one of these sessions via e-mail to Lisa Snider at ldsnider@purdue.edu.

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"Brown Bag" Seminar Series

The Laboratory Animal Program is conducting a weekly "Brown Bag" seminar at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday mornings in room 1142, VAHF. These seminars consist of slide presentations and videos pertinent to use of various animal species used in research, teaching and testing programs. Please join us for topics of interest and encourage members of your laboratory to attend. The following schedule of topics will be presented during Spring/Maymester:

March 20:	Rats & Mice - Care and Management; Video on Humane Handling and Laboratory Techniques
March 27	Rats & Mice: Biology; Video on Aseptic Surgery and anesthesia
April 3	Rabbits: Introduction to Use in Research & Biology
April 10	Rabbits: Care & Management: Non-Infectious Diseases
April 17	Rabbits: Infectious Diseases; Video on Immobilization of Rabbits & Other Laboratory Animals
May 1	Gerbils: Care & Use in Research
May 8	Hamsters: Use in Research; Care & Management
May 15	Hamsters: Biology; Bacterial & Mycotic Diseases
May 22	Hamsters: Viral, Parasitic & Non-Infectious Diseases

If you or members of your lab need training in any animal procedure, please contact the Laboratory Animal Program at 494-9163 (e-mail: lap@purdue.edu) for assistance.

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USDA and PACUC Compliance Inspections

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administers the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). This law provides for the humane care and treatment of animals used in biomedical research, as well as specific covered species (such as dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and many wildlife species) used in any research, teaching or testing program. APHIS' Animal Care program enforces the AWA by inspecting regulated facilities on at least a yearly basis. If you would like to know what the USDA expects of our facilities, APHIS has published an Animal Care Fact Sheet that provides information regarding standards expected and items examined during USDA Compliance Inspections. This fact sheet can be accessed at: http://www/aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/inspect.html. APHIS had planned on releasing copies of their Inspection Reports on their E-FOIA website; however, that has been delayed pending resolution of legal issues.

PACUC, as required by the AWA and Purdue's Public Health Service Assurance document, performs semi-annual inspections of all animal facilities on the Purdue campus. An example checklist for semiannual program and facility review can be accessed at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/sampledoc/chek1a.htm. If you have any questions regarding animal facility inspections or semiannual programmatic reviews, you may contact your PACUC representative, or the PACUC office at 494-7206 (e-mail: pacuc@purdue.edu).

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Occupational Health: Allergies Associated with Animal Handling

Animal related allergy is a common hazard encountered by people working with laboratory animals. As many as one third of personnel working with rodents and other laboratory animal species will develop symptoms of an allergy within six months to two years of beginning work with rodents. Symptoms can range from mild (e.g., sneezing, watering of eyes and nose) to severe (e.g., asthma), and depends on the underlying health status of the individual, the amount of exposure, and the level of protective clothing worn. Sources of allergens include animal dander, fur, urine, feces and saliva.

People handling animals can reduce the risk of developing allergies by minimizing exposure to animals and animal products. Items to consider include:

- Avoid wearing work clothes home or protect such garments via the use of a lab coat.
- Reduce skin contact with animal products such as dander, serum, and urine by wearing gloves and approved particulate respirators.
- Always wash hands after handling animals.
- Keep areas clean.
- Handle animals under a ventilated hood whenever possible/feasible.

Additional information regarding allergies associated with animal use can be found in the publication, "Preventing Asthma in Animal Handlers," DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 97-116, January 1998.
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/animalrt.html

In addition, all individuals at Purdue University who work with animals should be aware of the Purdue University Occupational Health Program for Individuals with Animal Contact. For information regarding the program see http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/nielsen/PACUC/Occheal.htm or contact the Laboratory Animal Program at 494-9163.