Training Trenches

“ALAT Certification Exam”

Anyone interested in preparing to take the ALAT (Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician) Certification Exam or simply interested in expanding your knowledge about laboratory animals, disease and prevention, and scientific fundamentals is invited to join Carol Dowell for an informal ALAT education course.

The class will meet from 12:30-2:00 p.m. each Friday from February 9 - May 18, 2007, in the Animal Holding Facility (AHF Building), room 1082.

Please contact Carol if you are interested in attending (42521 or dowellc@purdue.edu).

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Spring Cleaning

There have been a few items found in the LAP lab if anyone is interested in them. Please contact Summer @ 62886 or email smboyd@purdue.edu if you would like any of the following:

- 4 plastic microscope slide holders that can hold up to 100 slides each
- Small and large shepherd shacks for rodent enrichment
- Empty plastic pipette holders
- Shredded paper for rodent enrichment

First come, first serve!

Research – So What Is It?

A quick visit to the internet indicates that research is a “methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts, to establish or revise a theory, or to develop a plan of action based on the facts discovered.” The first part of this definition is what leads us to write grant proposals and accompanying animal use protocols. It is the second part though which is the most exciting, interpreting what we have found and
deciding where to go next. This is where at
times there may be a disconnect between what
we really want to do next in the laboratory and
what has been approved by the Purdue
University Animal Care and Use Committee
(PACUC). Investigators must be careful that
their passionate zeal for taking new and exciting
approaches in their experiments does not get
ahead of them. Sometimes this is inadvertent
and things tend to drift a little at a time until
there is a significant change, much like the party
game of whispering a word in someone’s ear and
going around the table and finding out that it
ends up much different from how it started.

Basically, any change in a protocol which is of
such a nature that, were you to write it again,
you would write it differently indicates the need
for an amendment to a protocol. A more
complete, but not exhaustive, list of changes can
be found in the PACUC Handbook on our website.
These would include changes in: the overall
objectives of the approved studies, species
used, non-survival to survival surgery or vice-
versa, procedures which might increase the pain
or discomfort experienced by animals (e.g.,
increased restraint, restrictions on food or
water intake, exposure to noxious or hazardous
stimuli or materials), using different anesthetics
or analgesics, employing an alternate form of
euthanasia, modifying surgical procedures, tissue
or blood sampling – times, amounts, sites, etc.

Submitting an amendment to an approved
protocol is actually a simple process. The form
is available on the PACUC website at:
www.purdue.edu/animals. Once received by the
PACUC office, it is acted upon very quickly by
committee members who are also researchers
and recognize your desire to get going in new
directions as soon as possible. As with an
original protocol, it is important to be as clear
and complete as possible the first time in order
to avoid delays. Remember to include a request
for additional animals if that will be necessary.
You will need to wait though until approval has
been received from PACUC before proceeding.

Also, please remember that if you have any
questions about whether or not something is a
significant change or not, call the PACUC office
at 49-49163.

-Prof. Gary Carlson
PACUC Chairperson

AAALAC-I to Visit Purdue - Fall
2007

The Association for the Assessment and
Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care,
International, or AAALAC-I, will be conducting
its triennial program evaluation and research
facility inspections at Purdue this fall (Sept-Oct
2007). AAALAC-I is an independent
organization that reviews and accredits
laboratory animal care and use programs using
the standards derived from the Guide for the
Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Guide for
the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals
and other published standards and regulations.
Through voluntary AAALAC-I accreditation,
participating institutions are able to assure they
meet the standards for animal care required by
the agencies such as the USDA, the Public
Health Service and the National Institutes of
Health. AAALAC-I accreditation is the gold
standard for the humane care and use of animals
in research and teaching. Purdue became fully
accredited in 2006 and the continuation of this
important recognition validates investigator and
institutional commitment to a quality animal care and use program.

During the minimum one-week long visit, AAALAC-I site visitors will visit and evaluate areas where animals are housed and used including individual investigator laboratories.

In preparation for a possible visit to your laboratory, it is prudent to be aware of investigator/laboratory specific policies. In this issue of the newsletter, we’ll revisit your responsibilities in terms of record-keeping associated with surgery. In the next newsletter, information on what to expect during a visit to your laboratory will be provided.

Record-Keeping Requirements
Surgical and Post-Operative Care

Records of all survival and non-survival surgeries must be maintained in accord with USDA regulations and recommendations of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Such records are subject to review by AAALAC-I and the USDA during campus visits as well as during PACUC semi-annual visits and Laboratory Animal Program (LAP) monthly visits. Surgical records are required for all species, including rodents. These records are to include information on the administration of anesthetics, fluids and any drugs; description of the procedure; intra-operative monitoring, post-operative recovery observations and treatment, including administration of analgesics and antibiotics; daily monitoring of the animal and incision healing; and the initials of the individual performing these tasks. All medications, including the name, dose, route, and time of administration should also be recorded.

The PACUC policy and sample Post-Operative Monitoring Records that you and your laboratory staff need to be familiar with are available on the PACUC website:

http://www.purdue.edu/Research/vpr/compliance/animals/forms/policy1.pdf

http://www.purdue.edu/Research/vpr/compliance/animals/forms/surgery_record.doc

Any adverse outcomes, including death of an animal or situations requiring euthanasia, should also be noted and must be reported to the Laboratory Animal Program utilizing the Death and Disposition Form.

(http://www.purdue.edu/Research/vpr/compliance/animals/forms/Death_Record.doc)

Please feel free to contact the PACUC/LAP if you have questions regarding your responsibilities.

-Dr. Bill Ferner
Director, LAP

Upcoming PACUC Meetings

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