Welcome back to campus for the new school year.

The PACUC Newsletter is distributed quarterly, to keep all animal user staff and students apprised of news relating to animal welfare on campus, new policies and procedures, and training opportunities.

Please be sure to read this publication, and pass it along to those who may not be on the listserv yet. If you know of someone who is using animals and is not receiving this newsletter, please contact our office at 494-9163. Our fax number is 496-2415.

Thank you, and have a great year!

For New Personnel Who Will Be Working with Vertebrate Animals At Purdue

All new personnel who will be working with vertebrate animals at Purdue University must complete the mandatory Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC) Orientation Program prior to working with these animals. New personnel includes faculty, staff, students (graduate and undergraduate), technicians, and animal care staff.

The orientation program may be completed on-line at: http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/rschoversight/animals/onlineorientation.php. The password to enter the orientation is “pass” without the quotation marks.

New personnel must also complete an Animal Use Qualification Form indicating their training in regards to working with vertebrate animals. This form must be on file with the PACUC office by the time the individual is ready to work with animals independently. (While under direct supervision from another qualified individual and receiving training, new personnel do not have to have a form on file.) The Animal Use Qualification Form can be found on-line at: http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/rschoversight/animals/forms.php.

Principal investigators should remember to add new personnel to their protocols via an Amendment Form prior to allowing them to work independently with animals. The amendment form can be found on-line at: www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/rschoversight/animals/forms.php.
New PACUC Policies

Based upon findings from the AAALAC site visit conducted in November 2010 and concerns subsequently expressed by AAALAC in terms of the provision of routine environmental enrichment for research animals as well as lack of a uniform personal protective attire policy, PACUC has approved two new policies.

These policies received comment from the PACUC members, animal facility staff, and select investigators who use animals.

It is expected costs for facility personal protective attire and environmental enrichment will be a facility responsibility and not necessarily a lab responsibility unless the lab wishes to institute a higher standard. Many facilities / investigators already provide enrichment but we had no uniform default standard for either enrichment or attire. Also please note that the new PACUC animal use form (July 2011) has a means to request an exemption to the use of environmental enrichment if the investigator is concerned for research effect – see below.

From PACUC Form 1:
5.7  Yes _________  No ____  Will environmental enrichment be provided to the animals on this project?

5.7a: If yes, specify what environmental enrichment will be provided (e.g., balls, chains, chew toys, extra bedding, huts, social housing, PVC pipes, social contact, behavioral training).

5.7b: If no, you must provide scientific justification for not providing environmental enrichment to the animals.

Default Social and Environmental Enrichment Program for Research and Teaching Animals

The purpose of environmental enrichment is to provide animals the opportunity to express basic behavior needs, promote species-typical, non-injurious behavior and promote physical and mental health thus enhancing animal welfare. The environmental enrichment provided should be biologically relevant (e.g., hiding, socializing, searching) so that it does not lose its enriching value over time.

For farm animal / agricultural species housed in an agricultural setting, the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, Chapter 4, Environmental Enrichment, should be followed.

Instances will arise when social grouping or enrichment items may be inappropriate for the scientific goals of the study. If investigators believe that social grouping or providing cage enrichment would have a negative
impact on the study or be detrimental to their animals, an exception to the policy for such social housing or
addition of enrichment items may be granted by the PACUC at the time of protocol review. For AAALAC’s
position statement on Social Grouping, see page 3 of this document.

**Social Group Housing & Cage Enrichment**

All species are group housed when allowed by the research protocol, availability of appropriate caging, and
the compatibility of the animals. Animals are segregated from the group if injured or ill. Exceptions for post-
procedure animals may be necessary and in particular when recovery from anesthesia is involved.

**Mice:** Mice will be group-housed in breeding or compatible unisex groups on contact bedding with nesting
material. It is not required that males housed on Tek-Fresh bedding will not be required to have nesting ma-
terial provided. Unfamiliar males or animals separated due to fighting will be housed singly on contact bed-
ding with nesting material. Nesting materials will be transferred to the clean cage with the animals at time of
cage change, with additional nesting material provided as necessary. Examples of nesting material: nestlets;
crinkle paper, tissues, paper towel.

**Rats:** Rats will be socially housed on contact bedding. When single housing is required by the investigator,
enhanced environmental enrichment meeting the needs of retreat space must be provided. For rats in open
polycarbonate cages, a PVC pipe section of appropriate diameter or other equivalent shelter equivalent will
suffice.

**Guinea Pigs:** Guinea pigs are to be kept in social groups and provided shelter space sufficient to contain all of
the pen inhabitants simultaneously. (Re: issue with use of PVC tubes if group housed as crowding of animals
into such tubes could constrict animals’ movements/respirations)

**Rabbits:** Animals >4 months of age should be housed singly with the ability for visual, auditory and olfactory
association with conspecifics. Rabbits housed singly must be provided a toy or other manipulanda on the
outside/inside of the cage on a regular basis to allow for exploratory behavior.

**Dogs:** Canines may be housed in compatible pairs or small groups. Dogs housed individually must be within
sight of other dogs. Each dog should have access to at least one toy when in their home enclosure. These
toys should be rotated to maintain interest. If dogs cannot be compatibly housed continuously, intermittent
social activity of 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week is allowable, e.g., during pen sanitation or walking.
Dogs should be given human interaction including petting, soothing speech, playing, and grooming.
**Cats:** Behaviorally compatible cats must be socially housed. Group enclosures should have sufficient resting places off the floor to accommodate every cat. Scratching posts and visual barriers should be provided. Multiple litter boxes, feed and water bowls should be distributed around the enclosure with at least one station for every two to three cats. If a cat is to be housed singly because of social incompatibility or is post-operative, it should be given a hiding place and opportunities for increased human interaction. Cats housed singly for scientific purposes should be within sight and sound of other cats and given toys, other manipulanda and opportunities for increased human interaction.

**Sheep:** Sheep must be socially housed in compatible pairs or small groups, unless exempted for experimental reasons by the PACUC, or for health or behavioral reasons by the attending veterinarian. If sheep must be individually housed, position them in such a way that they can see at least one conspecific, because visual isolation is stressful for sheep. Stressful research manipulations (e.g., venipuncture, drug application) should be accomplished within the presence of a familiar conspecific. Where there is likelihood of a single sheep remaining on census at a single site, experimental plans must account for the timely use of the remaining animal. Sheep must be provided a diet high in roughage, to allow species typical feeding and rumination, and to reduce the likelihood of stereotyped behaviors.

**Swine:** Behaviorally compatible pigs must be socially housed including, if necessary, combining pigs of compatible size and disposition to meet this need. Substrates should be provided to enable rooting behavior. Examples of such substrates include: plastic or bowling balls loose on the cage floor. Swine should be provided manipulanda suspended from the pen side, such as hanging ropes, chains, tires or rubber tubes, for play and exploration.

**Songbirds:** Songbirds should be housed in socially compatible groups with perches, feeders, watering devices, and cuttlebone as appropriate for the species.

**African Clawed Frogs:** Frogs must be housed in tanks with a population density not exceeding one per 2 liters tank water volume and as otherwise stipulated by facility SOP. With respect to the latter, water treatment, circulation and quality may stipulate that greater volumes be accorded per head. For animals housed with direct exposure to room light, refuges or retreats must be provided in the form of pipes, flower pots, or submerged plastic boxes unless the environment is already sufficiently dark.
**Pigeons:** Individually caged birds should have ability for visual, auditory and olfactory contact to allow for some social interaction with conspecifics. Behavioral training and associated staff interaction.

**Other Enrichment Devices:** The following is a list of other devices that have been successfully used on various species. *(Thought being would be appropriate/allowed but not minimum default - list probably can be expanded)*

of concern; periodic release into larger enclosures; supplemental enrichment items; and/or the addition of a companion animal in the room or housing area. The institution's policy and exceptions for single housing should be reviewed on a regular basis and approved by the IACUC (or comparable oversight body) and/or veterinarian.

**Mice:** Chew sticks/blocks, paper rolls, paper shacks, PVC tubes, Nylabones®, corn husks, plastic pipette boxes, wheels, and critter cubes.

**Rats:** Paper rolls, Nylabones®, PVC tubes, plastic huts.

**Guinea Pigs:** Paper rolls, corn husks, PVC tubes, cardboard boxes, Ferret Balls, bedding bags, Jingle Balls®, “houses” made of old cages.

**Rabbits:** PVC tubes*, “houses”*, baby rattles/keys, corn husks, Bunny Blocks®, Jingle Ball®

**Frogs:** Ramps, perches, PVC tubes, “J” feeders, floating leaves *(made from trash bags)*.

**Fish:** PVC tubes, floating leaves.

**Chickens:** Perches, red marbles in food, red marbles in water, mirrors, plastic links.

**Chicks:** Astro™ turf covered with feed.

**Birds:** Perches

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**AAALAC Position Statement on Social Housing**

The *Guide* states that single housing of social species should be the exception. Social housing will be considered by AAALAC International as the default method of housing unless otherwise justified based on social incompatibility resulting from inappropriate behavior, veterinary concerns regarding animal well-being, or scientific necessity approved by the IACUC (or comparable oversight body). When necessary, single housing of social animals should be limited to the minimum period necessary and, where possible, visual, auditory, olfactory and, depending on the species, protected tactile contact with compatible conspecifics should be provided. In the absence of other animals, additional enrichment should be offered, such as safe and positive interaction with the animal care staff, as appropriate to the species of concern; periodic release into larger enclosures; supplemental enrichment items; and/or the addition of a companion animal in the room or housing area. The institution's policy and exceptions for single housing should be reviewed on a regular basis and approved by the IACUC (or comparable oversight body) and/or veterinarian.

Approved by PACUC 8/17/11
The Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee has developed a new policy concerning required Personal Protective Equipment to be used in animal facilities. The policy applies to laboratory animal facilities on the Purdue campus. The new policy does not apply to working with agricultural animals housed on farms as these areas have SOP's concerning appropriate clothing. In addition the policy does not apply to persons providing care to animals in the Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The policy establishes a minimum standard for personal protective equipment and is not to limit more stringent requirements for personal protection that may be needed in some situations. These areas must have appropriate signage posted indicating the appropriate personal protection required for entry.

Please review the policy and plan to follow these requirement whenever entering a laboratory animal facility on Purdue’s campus.

Policy for Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Animal Facilities

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th edition, states that “good personal hygiene will often reduce the possibility of occupational injury and cross contamination.” The Guide goes on to state that “appropriate policies should be established and enforced, and the institution should supply suitable attire and PPE for use in the animal facility and laboratories in which animals are used.”

The following policy applies to laboratory animals housed or used on the Purdue University campus within laboratory animal facilities. This policy does not apply to agricultural animals housed on farms as these areas have SOP’s concerning appropriate clothing. In addition this policy does not apply to animals cared for by the Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

This policy establishes a minimum standard for personal protective equipment and is not to limit more stringent requirements for personal protection that may be needed in some animal areas or animal associated work areas such as cage wash. Appropriate signage must be posted in areas where more stringent requirements for personal protection are needed.

- A clean laboratory coat or disposable laboratory coat/gown to be worn over street clothes or clean designated clothing such as surgical scrubs or coveralls are to be worn whenever entering an animal housing area.
- Open toes shoes are not to be worn in animal housing areas.
- Laboratory coats or other designated clothing such as coveralls or surgical scrubs are not to be worn outside of the animal facility area unless being worn to transport animals or equipment or for personnel movement between animal holding buildings.
- All reusable clothing items are to be laundered at the animal facility or laundered by the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Central Supply in Lynn Hall. If laundering at the animal facility is not possible, placing soiled clothing in a sealed plastic bag for transportation will reduce the exposure to allergens of persons outside of the animal facility.
- Latex or nitrile gloves are to be available in all animal facilities for use when handling or examining animals. Nitrile gloves are to be available for those with latex allergies.
- Soap, water and paper towels or alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available for hand washing/sanitizing after handling animals and before eating, applying cosmetics, or smoking.
- Personal items such as but not limited to coats, backpacks, and hats are not to be taken in to animal-housing rooms.
- Shoe covers or rubber boots may be needed in areas where animal waste or potential pathogenic organisms may be carried from one animal area to another on foot wear.
- Masks such as dust masks or N-95 masks may be needed in some areas. N-95 masks must be fit tested by REM if use is required.
- Any exception to the minimum requirement for personal protection requires PACUC approval for either the PACUC protocol or SOP under which the animals will be used. This does not apply to more stringent requirements for personal protection.
Purdue University supports the humane use of animals in research, teaching, and testing. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC) is responsible for ensuring that all animals used in research, teaching, and testing procedures are treated humanely and in accordance with the Federal Animal Welfare Regulations, the PHS “Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals,” the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and all other applicable government regulations.

If you witness or suspect any violations of these regulations or have any questions or concerns about the specific use of animals at or in association with Purdue University, you are encouraged to contact:

**Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee**

(765) 494-7206  
pacuc@purdue.edu

Reports will be handled confidentially and may be submitted anonymously. All reports will be reviewed by the committee. No employee or student of the University will be subject to reprisal for reporting suspected violations or concerns.
How To Obtain Veterinary Care

When any person believes an animal is abnormal, sick, in discomfort, or otherwise requires aid, a call requesting veterinary care should be placed to the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP) office. The LAP must be notified of each abnormal animal even if the investigator/instructor is a veterinarian.

The following procedures should be used to obtain veterinary care for abnormal, ill or injured animals:

**Normal Business Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Call the LAP office (494-9163) and tell the individual answering that you would like to request veterinary care. **NOTE:** Failure to call this number/calling a specific veterinarian or veterinary technician may result in veterinary care delays.

**Evenings, Weekends and Holidays:**

Call the LAP office (494-9163) and listen to the recorded message to obtain information on how to contact the veterinarian/veterinary technician on call.

If you do not reach the "on call" person at home, **leave a message on the home answering machine** providing the same information. After leaving the message, page the "on call" person at the number obtained from the LAP office recording. (Note: enter the 7 digits of the phone number where you can be reached when the paging system gives the "beep" signal).

1. When reporting an abnormal animal, please be prepared to provide the following information:
   - Animal Identification
   - Animal Species
   - Animal Housing Site & Room Number
   - Investigator’s Name
   - Your Name & The Phone Number Where The Veterinary Technician/Veterinarian Can Reach You
   - Brief Description Of Problem
   - Based Upon Your Knowledge Of The Species, Would You Consider the Problem A Medical Emergency?

2. Make sure a red, LAP Identification Tag (available from your facility manager) is placed on the animal's enclosure. This will assist the veterinarian or veterinary technician in identifying the animal to be evaluated.

3. Complete the upper information on the Clinical Activity Report. Blank copies are available from your facility manager.
Important Message from the PACUC Office

As we begin a new academic year, with new students, staff and programs, I wanted to highlight a few important issues regarding utilization of vertebrate animals in research, teaching, and testing activities. Purdue policy and federal regulations require that, prior to any use of vertebrate animals in research, teaching, or testing, a protocol describing that use must be reviewed and approved by the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC). A critical component of PACUC’s responsibility is the documentation that all individuals who will participate in the activity involving vertebrate animals have received appropriate training to ensure that they are qualified for their role in the project.

There are several important actions necessary for those investigators with active, approved protocols for use of animals, and new postdoctoral, student, or technical staff joining their research, teaching, or testing projects. First, before new personnel work with vertebrate animals at Purdue University, they must complete an orientation session provided by the PACUC and Purdue Laboratory Animal Program (LAP). Second, before new personnel begin independent work on a project they must receive training appropriate to their role. During this period of training, the individual may work with animals only under direct supervision by a qualified person. Finally, when training is complete and the individual is ready to begin independent work under the approved protocol, the individual’s qualifications must be documented to PACUC through submission of an animal use qualification form, and the new personnel must be formally added to the project through an amendment to the protocol.

Please note that requirements for PACUC/LAP orientation, providing and documenting project-specific training, and adding personnel to protocols apply to any and all individuals who will work directly with or care for vertebrate animals at Purdue, regardless of whether this activity is short term or long term. Thus, the requirements apply equally to temporary postdoctoral associates, students, and technical staff working on projects, or graduate students experiencing laboratory rotations before selecting an advisor, as they do to full time, permanent staff.

All forms necessary to submit or amend a protocol, or to document qualifications, are available on the PACUC/LAP website [www.purdue.edu/animals]. If you have any questions regarding these requirements or wish assistance with training, protocols, or documenting qualifications, do not hesitate to contact the PACUC/LAP office at 494-9163.

Best wishes for a rewarding and productive academic year!

Lisa Snider, CPIA
PACUC Administrator

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<th>Meeting Date</th>
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