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:

- Thursday, October 3—1:30-3:00 p.m., LILY 3-113 A&B.
- Tuesday, November 5—1:30-3:00 p.m., LILY 3-113 A.
- Thursday, December 5—1:30-3:00 p.m., STEW 318.

Attendance at one of these sessions is mandatory for personnel (faculty, staff, students) who initiated work with vertebrate animals on or after September 3, 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.

“Orientation Program Now Available Via the Internet”

The orientation program has recently been made available via the internet at: http://www.purdue.edu/Research/ORA/animals/login.html. To access the program, simply fill out the required information and use the word “pass” (without quotes) as the password. At the end of the program, the participant must complete a questionnaire that will automatically be e-mailed to the PACUC office when the Submit button is hit. The PACUC office will notify all participants of whether or not they successfully completed the on-line version of the orientation program. If a person fails the questionnaire, they will be required to re-take it.

We hope by making this program available on-line (for those who cannot attend it in person), it will help all Purdue animal researchers remain compliant with federal regulations.

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**Special points of interest:**

- Board Certification for Dr. Nielsen
- Reminders from Lisa Snider
- Cancellation of Presentation
- Brown-Bag Seminar Schedule
Dr. Judy Nielsen Obtains ACLAM Board Certification!!

Judy Nielsen, D.V.M., Laboratory Animal Program (LAP), has achieved recognition as a certified specialist in the field of laboratory animal medicine, a recognized specialty within the veterinary medical profession.

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) is recognized officially by the American Veterinary Medical Association as the certifying organization for laboratory animal medicine. The College was founded in 1957 to encourage education, training, and research in laboratory animal medicine; to establish standards of training and experience for veterinarians professionally involved with the care and health of laboratory animals; and to recognize qualified persons in laboratory animal medicine by certification examination and other means. Currently, ACLAM has certified over 525 veterinarians as active specialists in the field of laboratory animal medicine.

To become certified, an individual must meet rigorous training, experience, and publication requirements, and pass comprehensive written and practical examinations. ACLAM board certification serves to substantiate Judy's unique qualifications which enables her to serve as a valuable member of the research team at Purdue.

Please join the LAP in congratulating Judy on her accomplishment!

Brown Bag Training Seminars

The Laboratory Animal Program is conducting the following monthly “Brown Bag” seminars at 11:30 a.m., in LYNN B193:

- September 17: Rodent Surgery Techniques
- October 8: Animal Allergies/Personal Protective Equipment
- November 12: Emergency Preparedness in the Animal Facility

Please join us for these topics of interest and encourage members of your facility or laboratory to attend.

As a reminder, if you or members of your lab need training in any animal procedure, please contact the Laboratory Animal Program at 494-9163 or lap@purdue.edu for assistance.
Death and Disposition Records

A new form has been sent to all animal facilities regarding the death and disposition of animals covered on approved protocols. This form was developed by the LAP veterinary staff. The primary reason for the form is to notify LAP when an animal is found dead, dies unexpectedly or dies from complications potentially associated with the animal’s use.

Purdue was cited for inadequate veterinary care during a recent USDA visit. This citation stemmed from an animal’s death where LAP was not aware of the circumstances surrounding the death. Even though LAP may not be in every facility each day or be intimately aware of certain activities, if veterinary care is involved, the LAP is held accountable. The laws are clear regarding the requirement for direct and frequent communication to the veterinary staff regarding animal health. The Death and Disposition Record was developed to assist in providing such communication.

The form also serves the purpose of alerting LAP to potential animal health problems. In the past, there has been no requirement that LAP be notified of dead animals, only sick or abnormal animals. Being informed of unexpected deaths allows LAP to determine if animal(s) should be submitted to the diagnostic lab, if there are environmental issues, or if there is a need for disease screening.

The LAP veterinary staff would ask that this record be filled out for every animal that is found dead, euthanized, or adopted (breeding colony animals are exempt). Anyone who finds an animal dead, euthanizes, or is working on an adoption, should complete this form and return it to the LAP office. This includes principal investigators, research technicians, animal health technicians, and animal caretakers.

Concerns have been expressed by a few principal investigator’s regarding the request to report scheduled animal euthanasia performed as planned in a project. The LAP does plan to utilize the information in an attempt to maintain current animal records. For each animal LAP evaluates (including rodents), a medical record is prepared. NIH and the USDA require LAP to maintain the records one year following the death of the animal. If LAP is not informed of animal euthanasia, we have a difficult task. We have yet to see how this will work, especially in terms of rodents, and may find that we’ll need to modify the procedure.

In order to make the form more user friendly for scheduled euthanasia (for those who prefer not to use the triplicate form that was provided to the animal facilities), please consider the following alternative:

- Take the form and for each animal room/project (i.e. PACUC #), complete certain information, and make a number of copies to have available for each animal room/project. Information that could be pre-entered might include:
  
  First Section: Facility, Phone Number (assuming there is a common number the staff can be reached at)
  Second Section: Species and possibly Breed (e.g., Balb/c) and Source (i.e., vendor)
  Third Section: PACUC #, Principal Investigator, Phone #, Other Responsible Individual, Phone #
  Fourth Section: Brief History of Animal (probably a statement from your PACUC approved form stating what animals are used for).

  That would leave one to complete only the following at a scheduled sacrifice. In addition, only one form is needed for all the animals euthanized at a scheduled sacrifice:

  First Section: Date and Reported By
  Second Section: Enter # of Animals (for group/scheduled sacrifice the Animal I.D.# need not be completed), age, sex, delivery date.
  Third Section: No additional entries would be needed
  Fourth Section: For scheduled euthanasia check “Was the Animal Euthanized”, Enter Date and Time and Check “Yes”.

If you have any questions on the use of this form, please contact the LAP office at lap@purdue.edu.
The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals states, “Rodents are often housed on wire flooring, which enhances sanitation of the cage by enabling urine and feces to pass through to a collection tray. However, some evidence suggests that solid-bottom caging, with bedding, is preferred by rodents. Solid-bottom caging, with bedding, is therefore recommended for rodents. IACUC (i.e., PACUC) review of this aspect of the animal care program should ensure that caging enhances animal well-being consistent with good sanitation and the requirements of the research project.”

In June 2002, a draft policy regarding the housing of rodents in wire bottom cages was circulated to animal facility managers and PACUC departmental representatives. It was requested this draft be provided to potentially impacted research staff for comment. No comments were received from the research community and at its July 17, 2002 meeting, PACUC approved a policy on wire bottom caging for rodents. The policy is printed in this newsletter.

If you utilize wire bottom rodent cages to house your research or teaching rodents, you are asked to review the policy such that you are familiar with housing requirements and with the conditions that will now require cage modification.

If you would like to make any comments or have questions, consider adding these to the comment section of the signature page of the newsletter. Questions regarding content of the policy and requests for background information regarding the use of wire caging for rodent housing can be obtained by contacting the Laboratory Animal Program at 494-9163 or lap@purdue.edu.

Reminders From the Desk of Lisa Snider

"Qualification Forms"

This past summer, each of you who have an Animal Use Qualification Form on file with the PACUC office were sent a memo asking you to review and update (if needed) your current form.

While most of you were quite diligent about doing this in a timely fashion and returning it to Sheila Light, LAP Secretary, some of you have not yet returned your form. I ask, at this time, that all outstanding forms be returned to Sheila (LAP/VAHF) so that we may bring our qualification records up-to-date.

It is Federal policy that Institution’s maintain records of personnel qualifications for those who work with non-human, vertebrate animals in research, teaching, and/or testing. Please assist us in adhering to this policy by returning the forms. If you have any questions on what you were originally sent, please contact Sheila at 494-9163 or sjlight@purdue.edu.

"Adding Personnel to Protocols"

As most of you know, to add personnel to your approved protocol, an Amendment Form (PACUC Form 1A) must be completed and sent to the PACUC office for approval.

PACUC would like to request that when adding personnel to a protocol, it be specifically listed on the Amendment Form what that person will be doing on the project (e.g., injections, surgery, blood collection). This information is then compared to the Qualification Form on file in the PACUC office to ensure that the person is qualified to be doing what is listed on the Amendment Form.

Ahhh... now you begin to see why it is important to keep Qualification Forms current (bet you thought I was just giving you busy work)! If you have any questions on this, please contact me.

ldsnider@purdue.edu
pacuc@purdue.edu
Increased Need for Detailed Information in Protocols

During the most recent visit by the USDA inspectors in June, a number of concerns were expressed regarding several of the protocols they reviewed. In many cases these were a reflection of a lack of adequate detail in the original protocol that was approved by PACUC. In view of this, PACUC will be more carefully scrutinizing protocols with particular emphasis on the following:

1. When analgesics are employed, e.g., in post-operative treatment, details need to be given. It will no longer be satisfactory to indicate that they will be given “as needed.” Questions which need to be considered include: What will dictate the need for the analgesics or will they always be used? What will be the dosing amount, frequency, route of administration and duration of treatment? What would be the criteria for continuing their use beyond what is routine?

2. Similar to details needed on analgesics, information is needed on antibiotics (i.e., basis for need, dose, duration, route of administrations, etc.).

3. What medical records are being kept? For example, if animals are to be routinely weighed, this needs to be recorded. If an individual animal receives an analgesic or antibiotic or some other treatment, this needs to be so noted. Purdue does not discriminate among species (USDA covered vs. non-USDA covered); therefore, it is as important to maintain these records for rats, mice, and birds as it is for dogs, horses, and guinea pigs.

4. What objective criteria are being used for the determination of whether or not an animal should be euthanized? What are the parameters for these endpoints? Indicating that professional judgment will be used will no longer be considered an acceptable answer.

5. Particular attention needs to be given to post-operative care. What will be monitored? How often will this be done? Who will be doing the care? What will be the criteria for the need to take additional steps?

6. Records of pre- and post-operative care must be kept and must be accessible to the LAP/PACUC/USDA inspectors. If veterinary care will be provided by anyone other than the Laboratory Animal Program veterinary staff, detailed information on this must be provided to the LAP.

Additional items that will be reviewed by the LAP veterinary staff can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Cancellation of a Presentation on October 16

In the September/October edition of Research Review, an article will inform you of a presentation that will be made on October 16 on the use of fish in research. The article indicated that the presentation would be open for the Purdue community to attend.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this presentation will only be available to Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC) members. We were, unfortunately, not able to secure a room to accommodate a large number of Purdue personnel.

PACUC apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.
Veterinary Review of PACUC Protocols

Surgery Protocols

In order to establish uniformity in the veterinary review of PACUC protocols, the LAP veterinarians met and established criteria to be examined on each protocol in which a surgical procedure(s) will be performed on an animal. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) Sample Animal Study Proposal section on Surgery (http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/olaw/sampledoc/oacu3040-2.htm) was used as the basis for establishing additional points to be considered that are not currently requested on the PACUC Protocol Application Form (Form 1). In addition to the points currently covered in Form 1, the following specific points will be examined, or requested, if not described in the protocol:

1) Description of the preoperative procedures (e.g., fasting, analgesic loading) and monitoring and supportive care during surgery.

2) If it is a survival surgery, a description of the post-operative care, the frequency of observation, and the identity of the responsible individual(s) for post-operative care will be required. Detection and management of post-operative complications during work hours, after hours, weekends and holidays should also be included.

3) A description of record-keeping (pre-surgical, surgical & post-surgical) as well as a statement about where the records will be kept to allow access to LAP and USDA inspectors quickly and easily should be provided. Copies of an example Surgery Record and Post-Op Record will be provided at the time of protocol review so that investigators may either adopt the example record or develop their own template that includes the pertinent pre-, intra-, and post-operative information.

4) Who will be providing veterinary care for the animals under the protocol? For this point, if LAP will not be providing the routine veterinary care, notification of the care being provided to the animals must be communicated to the LAP veterinary staff.

Other Minor Procedures

Blood withdrawal
1. frequency of collection
2. volume of collection
3. site from which blood will be withdrawn
4. restraint, anesthesia, etc., needed to collect sample (incl. monitoring of recovery)

Injections
1. volume of injection
2. frequency of injection
3. site of injection
4. route by which compound will be given
5. if not commercial preparation, assurance of sterility, pyrogen-free
PACUC Policy on Wire-Bottom Caging for Rodents

1) It is the policy of PACUC that, whenever feasible, rodents be housed in solid bottom caging with bedding.

2) Wire-bottom caging is acceptable for housing rodents, except for:
   - Long-term rodent housing, defined as greater than twelve (12) months.
   - Housing rats with a body weight in excess of 500 grams for longer than two months.
   
in which case the use of solid-bottom cages is the standard.

3) Effective September 1, 2002, all wire-bottom caging currently in use at Purdue University, that houses rodents exceeding the time and body weight limits listed above, are to be modified with either solid resting boards that cover one-third of the floor space, by providing an enrichment PVC tube, or replacing with solid bottom caging. Modification should occur only after review by and discussion with impacted research groups. Request for exceptions to this policy will require review and approval by the PACUC.

4) Wire-bottom cages may be considered for approval for long-term housing of rodents or housing large rodents, as long as foot health is maintained. Each situation must be reviewed and approved by the PACUC. There may be justifications for the use of wire-bottom instead of solid-bottom cages. An example of such justification might include contact (e.g., dermal application) or oral dosing studies, in which there may be a risk of the animal having additional contact with the compound if housed in a solid bottom cage with bedding.

5) When the use of wire-bottom cages is approved, an evaluation process must be in place to closely monitor the health of the animals, particularly the feet of larger animals on longer studies. The evaluation of the animals will be through the direct and frequent visual examination during the regular cage changes by the animal caretakers and interaction of the animals by the research staff. A mechanism that immediately alerts the veterinary staff should lesions develop needs to be part of the program.

6) If wire bottom caging is in use, the management of the animal facility where the animals are housed should be prepared with a sufficient number of resting boards or other ways (e.g., solid bottom caging) to provide animals that develop foot lesions relief from the wire and time to heal. Rodents with evidence of foot/leg lesions cannot be housed solely on wire-bottom caging.
It is both important and beneficial for all personnel to keep abreast of animal research issues, changing regulations, recent refinements in techniques and husbandry, etc. Provision of such training and instruction is required by amendments to the Animal Welfare Act and by Public Health Service Policy. This newsletter will help to fulfill the responsibilities imposed upon this institution by federal regulatory agencies.

We hope the material presented in the newsletter will be helpful and interesting. As readers, you are urged to make comments or suggest additional topics.

IMPORTANT: After reading the newsletter, please complete the form below, and return this sheet via campus mail to the PACUC office, VAHF, to be added to your qualification file.

I have read the PACUC Newsletter listed above.

Name (please print) ________________________________

Department/Address (please print) ________________________________

Ref#: September 2002 newsletter

Comments:

Signature ________________________________
PACUC Newsletter
Vol. 17, No. 3, September 2002

PLEASE RETURN TO THE PACUC/LAP OFFICE IF THE PERSON IS NO LONGER THERE.