Important Message from the PACUC Office

December 19

As we begin the 2018 calendar year with new faculty, staff, and students, I wanted to highlight a few important issues regarding utilization and care of vertebrate animals at Purdue University, they must complete the required Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC) training. For faculty and senior administrative staff, please note that the requirements 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.

Please note that the requirements encompassing individuals of the personal health risks associated with working with animals must be followed at all times. A Risk Assessment Form must be completed by the individual in charge of the research project, which will be evaluated by a member of the PACUC faculty committee. Each investigator is responsible for ensuring that all required training is completed and documented prior to beginning work with animals. Any animal user at Purdue University who has not completed the required training and documentation by the specified date will be removed from the database.

There are several actions necessary for those investigators with active research projects involving the use of vertebrate animals. As part of the PACUC's responsibility for the documentation of required training and regulatory/care of vertebrate animals, a Risk Assessment Form must be completed by the investigator laboratorian working with vertebrate animals. This form is essential to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care and use are knowledgeable about the potential risks associated with their work.

The risk assessment process involves assessing the potential risks associated with the animal species involved, as well as evaluating the investigator's experience and training in handling the animals. This information is then used to develop a comprehensive plan for ensuring the safety and well-being of the animals, as well as protecting the health and safety of all personnel involved in animal research.

To complete the Risk Assessment Form, investigators should refer to the PACUC website for instructions and guidelines. The forms must be received in the PACUC office so that they can be routed electronically to your supervisor who will need to approve it prior to the investigator's access to the animal care and use database. Once the form is approved, the investigator's qualification number will be issued.

A critical component of PACUC's responsibility is the documentation of training and qualification of individuals working with vertebrate animals. For this reason, A Risk Assessment Form must be completed by the investigator laboratorian working with vertebrate animals. This form is essential to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care and use are knowledgeable about the potential risks associated with their work.

Additionally, if you are, or will be an animal user at Purdue University, you are required to document the training you have received to work with vertebrate animals. This includes completing the CITI modules, and also some PACUC required modules. Once confirmation is received that you have successfully completed the CITI modules, you will be emailed your qualification number. You should retain this number for future reference and use in your research projects.

As we move forward into the new year, we encourage all animal users to review the PACUC website for forms, policies, guidelines, links for Occupational Health & Animal Qualifications, and other important information. We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals involved in animal research, and we encourage you to contact the PACUC/LAP office at 494-2415 or lap@purdue.edu if you have any questions regarding these requirements or wish assistance.

Please note that the requirements 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.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. We look forward to working with you to ensure the safety and well-being of our animal research subjects and our personnel.

Sincerely,

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