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**Preparing your lab
for an IACUC
or AAALAC
Inspection**



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The following slides are to serve as a reminder of issues that all animal users are expected to know and be able to appropriately respond, if asked during an AAALAC or IACUC site visit.

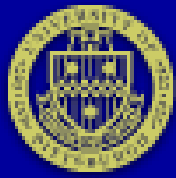
If you need assistance with any of these areas, please contact the IACUC office at 412-383-2008 or DLAR at 412-648-8950.



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First Impressions

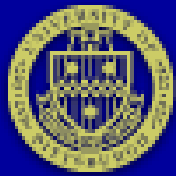
- **Keep laboratory neat and organized**
 - This says a great deal about the lab
- **Convey image that animal users are interested in a quality program**
- **Good Animal Care=Good Science**



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**Is
This
Your
Lab?**



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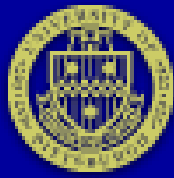
**Or is this
your lab?**



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Animal Care Acronyms to Know

- AAALAC-Int.-Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care-International
- IACUC-Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- USDA-United States Department of Agriculture
- AWA-Animal Welfare Act
- AALAS-American Association of Laboratory Animal Science
- OLAW-Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare



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Role of the IACUC

- Protocol Review
- Program Review
- Facilities Review
- Address animal concerns
- Note: The IACUC is required to conduct the same level of review twice per year as the AAALAC site team conducts every three years.



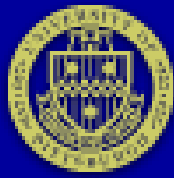


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Animal Concerns

What can you do?

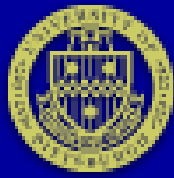




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IACUC Protocol

- Know your animal protocol
- It must match your grant application
- Refer to the protocol often
- Make no deviations from the protocol
- There is no such thing as a pilot study that does not need IACUC approval
- Has everyone in your lab read the protocol and know where it is located?

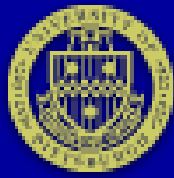


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Sick Animal?

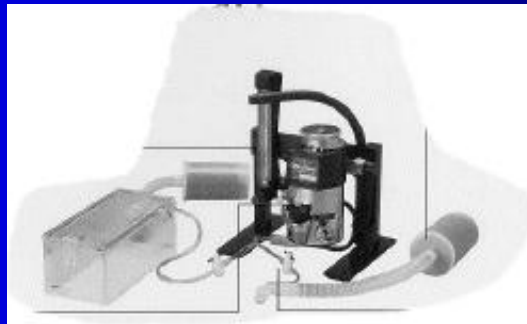
- What do you do? Post your procedure.
- What do you do with a sick animal on the weekend?
- Do you know the point at which the animal should be euthanized?
- Remember: ALL clinical care of animals MUST be coordinated through the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR).





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- Use anesthetics only as described in the protocol.
- Gas anesthetic vaporizers should be calibrated at least annually. See policy at www.iacuc.pitt.edu.
- Use a chemical fume hood or other means to scavenge gas anesthetic agents appropriately.

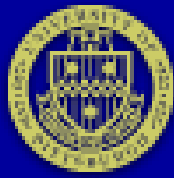




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Rodent Aseptic Surgery

- Must follow University of Pittsburgh published “Guidelines”
- Appropriate sterilization of instruments
- Surgical preparation of
 - Animal
 - Surgeon
- Monitor anesthesia
 - An anesthetized animal can not be left unattended
- Post-Operative Care consistent with
 - University of Pittsburgh “Guidelines”
 - And as described in your protocol

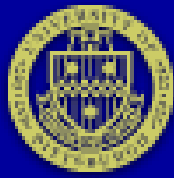


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Clinical Records for Warm-blooded Species Other Than Rodents

- Each animal must have an individual clinical record
- A post-procedure form (available from <http://www.iacuc.pitt.edu>) must be completed for every procedure done on the animal, as well as for euthanasia.
- For animals other than rodents, vital signs must be recorded at least every 15 minutes during surgery (including nonsurvival surgeries) on an anesthetic monitoring form (available from <http://www.iacuc.pitt.edu>)



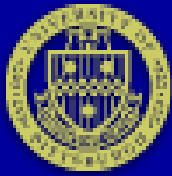


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Clinical Records for Warm-blooded Species Other Than Rodents

- Completed clinical records must be turned in to DLAR Veterinary Services
- Active clinical records must be maintained in the animal housing room or procedure area
- All drugs administered to an animal must be entered into its clinical record





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DRUGS

- Only use those drugs listed in the protocol
- Other drugs that may be needed for clinical care must be under the direction of a veterinarian
- Do you have a system for identifying and disposing of expired drugs?
- Controlled substances will be audited.
- Know the DEA rules!!





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Euthanasia

- Your euthanasia procedure must be performed as written in your University of Pittsburgh protocol
- What methods do you use to ensure death?
- Physical methods of euthanasia require specialized training and justification
- Use of a guillotine for euthanasia requires that it be properly maintained.



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Occupational Health and Safety

- All animal users **MUST** be enrolled in the Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP)
- Physical Issues:
 - Do not recap needles-see EHS policy
 - Bite wounds-Do you know what to do? See animal related injury guidelines
 - Personal Protective Equipment-do you know what is required?





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Chemicals

- All chemical containers must be labeled
- See IACUC policy on secondary labeling
- An expiration date must be on the label of all drug containers
- Keep chemicals away from human or animal food items



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Certifications

- Gas anesthetic vaporizers must be certified annually
- Hoods must be certified annually



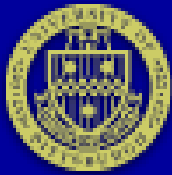


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Training With Animals

- Training for research staff
 - IACUC-required training includes modules 1 and 3, species specific training, and required EHS training
 - Hands on training by PI or designated staff member
- Training for animal care staff
 - Required IACUC and EHS training
 - Documented on-the-job training
 - Certification by AALAS is ideal





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Animal Housing

- To remain consistent with the “Guide”, no overcrowding is permitted
 - Review size requirements listed in the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” for proper caging.
 - Delayed or incomplete weaning is the most common cause of overcrowded conditions
- Identification
 - Cage cards must be visible and information completed
 - Animals must be identified
- No housing of animals outside of the designated animal facility space is permitted unless approved by the IACUC

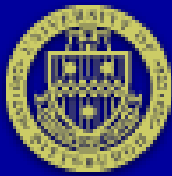




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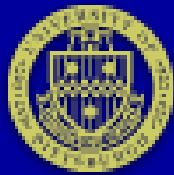
University of Pittsburgh Policies

- Designed to help users and the University of Pittsburgh to maintain a program consistent with the “Guide”
- Designed to treat all investigators equitably
- Posted on the University of Pittsburgh IACUC website, www.iacuc.pitt.edu
- If you need clarification or assistance, contact the IACUC office at 412-383-2008



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- <http://www.iacuc.pitt.edu> IACUC website
- <http://www.ehs.pitt.edu> Environmental Health and Safety website for the University of Pittsburgh
- <http://rpf.health.pitt.edu/rpf/> On-line training site
- <http://www.aalas.org> Animal Technician certification program
- <http://www.aaalac.org> AAALAC international home page



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- Please contact us if you have any questions
- IACUC Office 412-383-2008
 - iacuc@pitt.edu
- DLAR-412-648-8950
 - dlar@pitt.edu