What is AAALAC International?
What is AAALAC Int.?

- Accreditation and assessment for animal care and use programs.
- Completely voluntary and confidential programs.
- Open to all institutions that use animals in research, teaching or testing.
- International in scope – more than 700 institutions in 29 countries are accredited.
What is AAALAC Int.?

- Private nonprofit organization.

- Governed by 60+ “Member Organizations,” (AVMA, ICLAS, AALAS, FELASA, etc.).

- Programs are carried out by a 33-member Council on Accreditation and 170+ ad hoc Consultants.

Administrative Offices are located in Rockville, Maryland (USA), Brussels, Belgium and Honolulu, Hawaii.
Some notes on the accreditation process

- Review process occurs every three years

- The entire process is completely confidential.

- There are opportunities to provide feedback and explanations to the site-visit team and the Council throughout the process.

- AAALAC’s peer-review accreditation system is designed to be collegial and educational.
Why earn accreditation?

- It symbolizes quality.
- It promotes scientific validity.
- It's a recruiting tool.
- It demonstrates accountability (to the public, etc.).
Why earn accreditation?

- It provides a confidential, external peer-review.
- It impresses funding sources and partners.
- It shows a real commitment to humane animal care.
How does it work?

Developing a “Program Description” (a document that details the entire animal care and use program).

- A care and use “program” encompasses:
  - animal care and use policies and responsibilities
  - animal environment, housing and management
  - veterinary medical care
  - physical plant
Sources for Standards

- AAALAC standards are based on applicable local and national laws and regulations
  - *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (NRC 1996).
  - Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations
How does it work?

- Submit application and Program Description to AAALAC

- Schedule a program site visit review. Site visit teams include at least one Council member plus expert ad hoc Consultants.

- The site visit team submits their report to the full Council on Accreditation.

- Council determines institution’s accreditation status. A letter detailing institution’s accreditation status is sent.
Maintaining standards of animal care and use

Getting it right
Role of the IACUC

- Protocol Review
- Program Review
- Facilities and Use Area Review
- Address animal concerns

Note: The IACUC is required to conduct the same level of review twice per year as the AAALAC Int. Program review team conducts every three years.
IACUC Protocol

- Know your animal protocol.
- Match to 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 the lab read the protocol and know where it is located?
Training Prior to Work With Animals

- **Training for research staff**
  - IACUC-required training includes RPF Modules, species specific training, and all 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
Where would you expect better study results from?

Here?

Or Here?
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
Storing Equipment & Supplies

http://healthcare.spacesaver.com/centralsterile.jpg
Signage

- Animal related injury procedures
- Emergency vet care
- Rodent Survival Surgery
- Reporting Concerns (animal welfare)
Rodent Aseptic Surgery

- Must follow University of Pittsburgh published “Guidelines”
- Appropriate sterilization of instruments
- Surgical preparation of animal and 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
Inhalant Anesthesia Use

- Use anesthetics only as described in the protocol.
- Gas anesthetic vaporizers should be calibrated at least every 2 years.
  - See policy at www.iacuc.pitt.edu.
- Use a chemical fume hood or other means to scavenge gas anesthetic agents appropriately.
Documenting Procedures

Blue Procedure Cards

Research Records

Dates, procedures, observations, initials

http://www.bedfordlabs.com/BedfordLabsWeb/products
Animal Health Issues?

- Post-procedure complications. What do you do?
- What do you do with a sick animal on the weekend?
- Do you know the point at which the animal should be euthanized? What does the protocol state?
- Remember: ALL clinical care of animals **MUST** be coordinated through the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR).
- Can you name a University Veterinarian or Vet Technician?
Clinical Records for Warm-blooded Species Other Than Rodents

- Each animal must have an individual clinical record.
- A post-procedure form (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 non-survival surgeries) on an anesthetic monitoring form (http://www.iacuc.pitt.edu).
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
Writing Legibly
Monitoring for Expired Drugs, Fluids & Materials

http://medrepexpress.com
http://www.patientpowernow.org/wp-content/uploads.jpg
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 laws!!
Labeling Secondary Containers
Sharps Safety
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
Garbing Properly

http://www.inmagine.com/searchterms/surgical_gloves.html
http://www.mdp-miami.com/catalog/images/masksnmore
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?
Certifications

- Gas anesthetic vaporizers and anesthetic machines must be maintained and certified at least every two years.
- Fume hoods and Biological Safety Cabinets must be certified annually.
Animal transport

- Use only Approved transport routes
- No public elevators
- Use only DLAR approved transport devices
Visitors Policy

- Visitors to your lab need to obtain permission from the DLAR Clinical Director prior to their visit. To initiate permission to have a visitor, contact the DLAR at 412-648-8950.
Animal Housing

- According to 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
Euthanasia
AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia - 2007

http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf

- 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.
University of Pittsburgh Policies

- Designed to help users and the University of Pittsburgh to maintain a program consistent with the “Guide for the Care and Use of Animals”
- 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
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
- **OLAW** - Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare
- **AALAS** - American Association of Laboratory Animal Science
Please contact us if you have any questions

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