ACCLIMATIZATION/STABILIZATION OF ANIMALS

Acclimatizing and stabilizing newly received animals to their new environments is an important component of providing physiologically stable biologic models for research—especially during the stressful periods of animal transport such as winter. The Guide states that “newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization before their use.”

A few tips to help ensure that all researchers and their staff abide by the policy:

- Animals under acclimatization or quarantine should not come in contact with animals already on study.
- Animals should be considered “infected” unless adequate information confirms that the animals are disease free.

How can you maximize your research outcomes will minimizing effects of transport?

1. Order animals well in advance of when they will be required.
2. Assure all incoming animals have a minimum of 7 days acclimation to the facility prior to use.
3. If you have exemptions due to protocol requirements please advise DLAR husbandry staff.
4. Special husbandry and acclimation needs can be requested through DLAR husbandry staff to aide in ac-

WHY WAIT? AVOID DELAYS!

Protocol Process Updates
Obtaining OESO and EOHW Clearance for Animal Use Protocols & Amendments

There are two parallel processes at work with every protocol or amendment submission to the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC). Both processes must be completed before the proposed work with animals can be accomplished. The processes are: 1) the IACUC must APPROVE the proposed activity; and 2) the Occupational Environmental Safety Office (OESO) and Employee Occupational Health and Wellness (EOHW) must CLEAR the proposed activity.

Often, the protocol will be approved by the IACUC many days prior to clearance being granted by OESO or EOHW. Usually the hold-up is with one individual listed on the protocol who has not completing the web training, or an individual who has not submitted a health questionnaire -- both very small but highly significant issues!

Did you know you can obtain OESO and EOHW clearance prior to submitting the protocol document for review? This will save time with the clearance, and assure that you can perform the requested research more quickly!

Did you know you can obtain OESO and EOHW clearance prior to submitting the protocol document for review? This will save time with the clearance, and assure that you can perform the requested research more quickly!

There are two important things to remember:
1. You can complete (or update annual requirements) via the on-line training (http://www.safety.duke.edu) and the Health Review for Animal Handlers (https://www.hr.duke.edu/secure/eohw/animal.php) at any time—there is no need to wait until the protocol is being processed.
2. Principle Investigators can check on the training status (OESO web training completed) of their laboratory staff. Contact Joan Catignani by email at (catig001@mc.duke.edu) to establish the authority to review lab staff training records.

Continued in the Next Column

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

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<td>August 26</td>
<td>New Protocol Meeting</td>
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<td>September 2</td>
<td>Amendment meeting</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
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Deadlines are 5 PM on the date listed!
CONCORDANCE REVIEWS

A concordance review is a comparison between the grant submitted to the funding agency and the protocol reviewed by the IACCUC. Concordance reviews are required by many (but not all) granting agencies—especially federal ones. Generally, the granting agencies require an signed concordance letter PRIOR to release of the funds for the grant, so it is important to plan ahead!

Concordance reviews are performed by the OAWA/IACUC and require 5-7 business days to complete. Why so long? Because a concordance review compares each and every procedure stated in the grant with the procedures approved in the protocol, and they must match! To be concordant, everything you told you granting agency you would do with animals, even if it will not be done until the 4th or 5th year, must be IACUC approved before the concordance letter can be generated.

The OAWA/IACUC requires the whole grant EXCEPT the biosketches and the budget pages. It is preferred that an electronic copy be provided when the protocol is submitted (if you have the grant at that time). If not, a concordance review can be done at any time, but it will take the 5-7 business days to complete.

The secret? PLAN AHEAD! If you think you MAY need a concordance review, request it up front, because these reviews cannot be rushed, and do require time to complete.

If you need additional assistance with this process please call Bill Wade at 688.6722 in the OAWA office.

OESO On-Line training modules: All Duke Principle Investigators on animal protocols (whether handling animals or not) and all research associates handling animals must complete the on-line training modules Animal Handlers Part I and Animal Handler Part II located on the OESO web site. Log in with your Duke Net Id and password. The On-Line training tab is located on the left hand side of the main page. To access the Animal Handlers courses click on Courses Available on Line. The two components are Regulations Impacting Animal Care and Use and Veterinary Care. There is a quiz for each module. Once completed the data is maintained by OESO and can be accessed by animal program staff during the protocol review process. These modules are required only once (no annual update on these modules).

EOHW clearance: All research staff who will work with animal models must complete the “Health Review for Animal Handlers” on the Duke EOHW web site www.hr.duke.edu/ehow. The link is located on the main page. Click on Health Review for Animal Handlers. You will need a Duke unique ID in order to complete the form. Fill out all required information and click on submit when finished. You do not need to submit a hard copy. Questionnaires will be reviewed by EOHW medical staff. If there are any concerns with respect to occupational risks you will be contacted by one of the staff nurses. If you have additional questions after submission you may contact the EOHW office at 6864-3136 and select option #2.

If you need additional assistance with this process please call Bill Wade at 688.6722 in the OAWA office.

Painful Things to Think About

1. Pain of any level (mild to severe) is an uncontrolled variable which could affect research data outcomes.
2. Effective pain management decreasing the numbers of animals necessary to obtain reliable research outcomes.
3. Subjective . (or observed) pain assessment:
   - Difficult to establish a validation scale.
   - Differs between assessors (people see things differently).
   - May be modified by time of day, other activity.
4. Increasing dose of analgesics may make some animals MORE painful!
5. Suffering is an emotional response which is individual and subjective.
6. Pain is relate to the affective state—if you fear the surgery, it will hurt more. Therefore, making animal patients comfortable and ‘happy’ with enrichment will decrease the perception of pain, will shorten recovery, will require less analgesic (analogy based upon human research outcomes).

RESEARCH ANIMAL COORDINATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Thanks to all those who attended the Brown Bag seminar on June 23rd as we introduced the Research Animal Coordinator Training program.

To recap for those who could not attend, we hope to have the applications available on the OAWA web site sometime in September or October with the first group starting the course in November.

The course is open to anyone who works with animal models, but we will be gearing this towards those individuals who have a management or supervisory role in the lab and will consider that when reviewing the applications.

If you would like a copy of the presentation from the Brown Bag please send me an e-mail (w.wade@duke.edu)

Bill
**Question:** My protocol is about to lapse due to circumstances beyond our control. It has taken us a long time to breed and develop our animals for research. Is there any way we can keep from euthanizing our animals?

**Answer:** The animal program does have an Animal Holding Protocol for certain selected purposes. Eligibility for the holding protocol is determined on a case-by-case basis. Situations which may allow for use of the holding protocols include:

- A non-compliance situation where the IACUC has taken the animals into receivership;
- Animals remaining when a protocol is inactive (or terminated);
- Animals on a protocol under investigation for potential issues of non-compliance where the welfare or well-being of the animals is in question;
- New investigators coming to Duke that require immediate housing of their animals but do not have an approved Duke protocol presently; or
- Investigators that are leaving Duke and do not have the necessary approvals for transfer to the new institution. For more information, see the IACUC policy on the animal program website or call the DLAR @ 681-6792.

**Question:** I heard there is a new process that requires registration of transgenic mice. Is this true? How do I register?

**Answer:** The need to register creation of transgenic mice with the IBC is an NIH requirement of their recombinant DNA Guidelines. In fact, the Duke transgenic animal facility will not allow such work unless there is an IBC approval. All of the information about the Guidelines, and how to comply with these at Duke are found on the Lab Safety website: http://www.safety.duke.edu/LabSafety/DNA.asp. The only form required for transgenics is the rDNA registration form (linked on this website), unless you are using a viral vector. The rDNA form is 2 pages. You can send it to me at this e-mail address or at the biosafety e-mail indicated on the form. Once I receive this, we can sign off on the protocol. I’ll then take it to the IBC next week for review and approval. You will then get a status report back. Information about the IBC, the need to register recombinant DNA protocols, and the above links are included in the online Laboratory Safety Training that is required annually of all lab personnel. For more information, contact Debra Hunt at OESO [hunt0009@mc.duke.edu].

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**FREE WEB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR DUKE RESEARCHERS**

The Duke animal care and use program has subscribed as an institutional enrollment to the AALAS Learning Library. This web training resource is open to PI’s with animal protocols, research associates, part time lab members, visiting staff (researchers or students). The only requirement to participate in the web training resource is to be associated with the Duke animal care and use program. The AALAS Learning Library provides essential training. The AALAS Learning Library emphasizes appropriate handling, humane care, and compassionate euthanasia. The AALAS Learning Library is a means of obtaining important training that does not cost you, your laboratory, or the research grant. The catalog of available courses on the Learning Library is listed below. Certain modules (e.g. Intro to …) would be most beneficial to new hires or visiting students, while other modules (e.g. pain recognition or aseptic technique would be of greater value to active research associates. All modules are available to you. The AALAS Learning Library also provides the opportunity for continuing education units (CEUs), necessary for maintenance of certification for technical staff. In addition to the Learning Library, our subscription also includes access to self administered test based on the scientific articles in Contemporary Topics. These tests are published six times a year. The online test questions are the same as the questions published in each issue of the hardcopy version of Contemporary Topics. New questions are posted online after each issue has been printed and mailed to subscribers. The Test Library for each issue will remain available for two months, after which the questions for the next issue will be posted. Answers to the previous issue’s questions are also posted. While enrollment to you and your laboratory staff is free, each will need a username and password to participate.

Send an Email to: W.WADE@DUKE.EDU. On the SUBJECT LINE, say: “ACCESS TO DUKE / AALAS LEARNING LIBRARY.”

In the body of the message, list: FIRST NAME; LAST NAME; DUKE NET ID for the individuals who would like access to the Learning Library web modules. We’ll do the rest.
Animal bites are not only painful but can have serious potential health consequences. All animals have bacteria in their mouths which can cause infections requiring antibiotics and in some cases hospitalization. Additionally, permanent nerve and joint injury can result from bite wounds, particularly in the hands and fingers. Risk factors for slow healing include severe injury with disruption of deep structures especially in the hand, and co-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, poor circulation, and immune system suppression due to illness or medications.

**If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, where the skin is broken, follow the standard procedures for first aid:**
- Safely secure the animal
- Remove personal protective equipment
- Immediately clean the wound with warm water and soap for at least 15 minutes
- Apply adequate pressure to control bleeding and apply light bandage if needed
- Notify supervisor of the incident

**Professional medical attention is highly recommended for any rodent-inflicted wound that is more severe than a superficial scrape and for all rodent wounds that draw blood.** Duke personnel must receive their medical attention at Employee Occupational Health and Wellness. Consultation with an Occupational Health Nurse is available at all times, (684-3136, option 2, during EOHW clinic hours, or call BBF Hotline 684-8115 when clinic is closed).

The medical assessment will include determination of need to update tetanus booster, and treatment of the wound, potentially including a prescription for antibiotics to prevent infection. Symptoms and signs of infection may develop later even while taking an antibiotic and may include pain, redness, warmth, red streaking, fever and chills. If these symptoms develop, immediate medical attention is needed.

**Non-Human Primate Exposures:** Bites and scratches from nonhuman primates (NHPs) pose their own set of potential serious health consequences. Medical attention for lemur bites will include an assessment of need for post-exposure rabies vaccination. Macaques may be infected with Herpesvirus simiae (Monkey B virus). The virus can be transmitted to workers through scratches, bites, and splashes and can lead to deadly illness if not handled properly. Refer to the Herpes B Virus Exposure Guidelines available in the vivarium for detailed instructions in the case of an exposure. DO NOT delay first aid for the wound:
  - Bites and scratches - thoroughly scrub and irrigate exposed area for a minimum of 15 minutes with a chlorhexidine or povidine-iodine scrub
  - Eye exposures – flush copiously with water for 15 minutes Herpes B virus is readily killed by most disinfectant soaps and the flushing action is reportedly the most effective method of removing the virus. Evaluation at EOHW clinic is required and after hours consultation by calling the BBF Hotline (684-8115) is advised.

Post-exposure treatment with antiviral medication to prevent infection may be prescribed. All work-related injuries, no matter how trivial they may seem at first, should be reported to Workers Compensation via the online AO16 form (https://www.hr.duke.edu/secure/workcomp/a016.php). Once proper medical attention has been administered, the employee and supervisor should complete the online form during the shift in which the injury occurred. If the employee or supervisor’s report is submitted late (more than 24 hours after the injury), the department may be charged for wage replacement paid to the employee as a result of the injury. More information is available at the Duke Workers Compensation website (http://www.hr.duke.edu/workcomp/).