A COMMITMENT TO ANIMAL WELL-BEING

The last issue of the ‘Animal Tracks’ resulted in a few questions, specifically about the reminder that we are all obligated for the well-being of research animals, even if they are not enrolled in our specific research project. Let’s take a brief moment in this month’s issue of Animal Tracks and consider the message — just to be sure there is no confusion.

The 8th Edition of The Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals, (‘The Guide,’ effective 1 January 2012), ‘...strongly affirms the principle that all who care for, use, or produce animals for research, testing, or teaching must assume responsibility for their well-being (Page1: Key Concepts). Paraphrasing The Guide language, it does indeed take a village to assure animal well-being and, if well-being is not assured, then it becomes the responsibility of the village to effect corrective measures. There are no hidden messages in The Guide, but there is a clear expectation, and all of us are responsible. So, how do we apply The Guide expectation to our program of animal care & use? To each of us? How can we assure the Duke animal research village exhibits responsibility for the well-being of the animals in our program? And most importantly and specifically, what should I do if I see an animals suffering?

There are several actions each of us must assure if we are to fulfill the expectations of The Guide. These include:

1. **Follow the protocol:** If certain pain or distress preventive measures are described and IACUC approved, then follow them. The IACUC always includes in its review, and assessment of potential pain or distress and necessary measures to prevent unnecessary pain/distress while maximizing animal well-being. It is really the only ‘right’ scientific answer. Healthy animals not in pain provide reliable scientific data. Therefore, keeping animals free of pain or distress supports quality research outcomes, and is therefore, the best ethical, moral, and scientific decision.

SPRING 2012 IACUC SEMIANNUAL SITE VISIT SCHEDULE

With the New Year comes the new round of federally required inspections of all areas where animals are housed or used. IACUC sub-committees will be visiting these areas according to the following schedule. Please make a note of the date for your facility. Inspections will take place on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM:

- **February 2, 2012:** LSRC – SANDS
- **February 9, 2012:** GSRB2
- **February 16, 2012:** BRYAN – NANALINE DUKE
- **March 1, 2012:** JONES – ENGINEERING – RP 2, 3 & 4 – GSRB2 ANNEX – GSRB1
- **March 8, 2012:** MARINE LAB – MUSEUM OF LIFE & SCIENCE
- **March 15, 2012:** CARL – EYE CENTER – DLAR FARM – INDEPENDENCE PARK
- **March 29, 2012:** CCIF
- **April 5, 2012:** FOSTER ST. – BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE – FRENCH FAMILY SCIENCE
- **April 12, 2012:** DUKE SOUTH – CR2 - GHRB – CIEMAS (FITZPATRICK)
- **April 19, 2012:** VIVARIUM – MSRB
- **May 3, 2012:** LEMUR CENTER – MSRB2 – ECO-TOX FACILITY
2. **Act as a First Responder**: If you observe an animal in pain or distress, you should prevent any continued suffering and protect the animal from on-going pain or distress (in accordance with your skills and experience of course). For example, if you see a rodent stuck in a cage lid, then you should immediately release the animal into the cage. If you observe an animal that has pulled out a catheter and is losing blood, then you should do something (e.g., cap it / apply gauze and pressure) to stop the blood loss. As a First Responder, your goal is to eliminate the immediate pain/distress to the animal so you can notify the veterinarians who will provide definitive care.

3. **Notify Duke Veterinarians**: For non-Lemur Center issues, call the DLAR veterinary staff. For Lemur Center issues, call the DLC veterinary staff.

   ⇒ DLAR: Monday –Friday: 684-2797 or 684-0382
   ◦ After-hours: 970-9410.
   ◦ Veterinary Technician on Call may be reached at 919-970-2871.
   ⇒ DLC: Call the Senior Technician at 489-3364 extension 225
   ◦ DLC Veterinarians may be reached at 489-3364 extension 221 or 224

4. **Stay with the animal (or assign someone else to stay with the animal) until veterinary help arrives**. Continue to provide whatever interim care is necessary to protect the animal and assure its well-being.

5. **Notify the IACUC**. The federal regulators expect the IACUC to be advised of adverse events or unanticipated outcomes which affect research outcomes or the well-being of research animals. Your responsibility as a member of the Duke animal program village is not fulfilled until you have (or you have assured someone else has) submitted the [Duke University Adverse Event / Unanticipated Outcome Form](#).

   Animal use for research, testing, and teaching is a privilege; and if our community does not protect the privilege of using animals by partnering as a community to prevent or correct animal suffering, pain or distress, then our opportunity to push back the dark boundaries of medical science will disappear.

   But a word of caution, the obligation to act responsibly and ensure the relief of animals suffering in pain or distress recognize is not a free pass to interfere with IACUC approved research. Being a ‘Good Samaritan’ to Duke’s animals is fully supported by regulation, policy, and the IACUC. Disrupting research or doing a bit of ‘doctoring’ on your own instead of engaging Duke veterinarians is not supported by regulation, policy, and the IACUC.

   The difference shouldn't be confusing to anyone. If the animal is suffering, that animal needs your attention, maybe it needs your immediate efforts, and certainly it requires your timely reporting.

   By working together we will:

   ⇒ Fulfill the obligations of the federal regulators as enunciated in the newly published 8th Edition of The Guide.
   ⇒ Insure continuation of the wonderful Duke standards for animal based research performed in a compassionate animal care & use environment.
   ⇒ Assure animal based research remains the most humane means to discover the secrets hidden in the world around us.

   Yes, it takes a village. In this village we have close to a zoo’s worth of species! Each one unique, each one able to suffer, each one deserving of our attentiveness and our efforts for their well-being. In the final analysis, we will succeed together, or we will fail together. Let’s choose compassion and caring; being known for world-class science in a compassionate culture.

   Wishing you a safe and successful research month,

   Is this anything new? No, not really. It is common sense that most of us would never pass an animal in distress and just say ‘it is not my responsibility.’ But with the publication of the new [Guide](#), it is more than common sense, it is a clearly defined obligation that we act as good stewards of animal resources, regardless of role, task, or duty.
OLAW ISSUE NEW INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE MODEL

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has updated the sample Inter-institutional Assurance document, formerly known as the Inter-institutional Agreement (IIA). Changes to the document clarify essential information, list institutional responsibilities, and define required elements. Institutions that submit Assurances after January 1, 2012 are asked to follow the revised format. U.S. institutions that receive PHS funds through a grant or contract award are to use the Inter-institutional Assurance when the institution does not have its own animal care and use program, facilities to house animals, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). In this situation, the awardee institution will conduct the animal activity at an Assured institution (named as a performance site). For more information, see NOT-OD-12-021.

What does this mean for Duke researchers? Not much since the animal program has been using the process for several years. But what is important to know is that the process of obtaining an IIA is not immediate. In other words, it will take time—generally 2-4 weeks—to route the assurance agreement between the two institutions, the institutional representatives and the NIH. The agreement is NOT in effect until the NIH has signed the final document. The take-home message: If you are aware of work that will be performed at other institutions (other than the Durham VA), then please note the performance site when you submit the protocol so the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance can help initiate the required documents to keep your research efforts moving forward.

AVAILABLE TRAINING FOR DUKE RESEARCHERS

The Duke research community has several options for obtaining continuing education staff members. Options include:

◊ **AALAS Learning Library**: All members of the Duke animal research community have free / no cost access, Obtain a password / USERID by emailing IACUC@DUKE.EDU. Visit the Learning Library for an complete listing of available courses ([https://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org/](https://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org/)),

◊ **Animal Tracks**: ‘Animal Tracks’ is published approximately monthly, and electronically distributed to the Duke research community. The newsletter is a means to communicate new and necessary information regarding animal care & use at Duke. Archived issues are available on the Duke animal program website,

◊ **Brown Bag Seminars**: Approximately monthly, the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance hosts a one-hour seminar for the Duke research community. Contact Bill Wade for details.

◊ **The OESO Safety Website** provides on-line training in a variety of subjects, specifically focusing on Duke issues and concerns. Visit [http://www.safety.duke.edu/](http://www.safety.duke.edu/) and select the ‘ONLINE TRAINING’ option.

◊ **Duke Animal Program Guidelines** by clicking the ‘GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS’ on the left of this web

OLAW ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WEBSITE ADDITIONS CONCERNING THE NEW GUIDE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued a Federal Register Notice announcing its adoption of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: 8th Edition effective January 1, 2012. The notice provides the adoption and implementation plan for the 8th Edition of the Guide and includes Position Statements to clarify how the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) expects Assured institutions to implement the Guide. OLAW is offering a public comment period regarding the Position Statements between now and January 31, 2012.

OLAW has developed the Adoption of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition webpage that provides the Position Statements (with a link for each one where comments can be made), resources for implementing the Guide, and a listing of public comments on adoption of the Guide all in one location.

NOTE: The new 8th Edition of the Guide will be utilized as a resource by AAALAC site teams for the upcoming accreditation visit at Duke in 2012.

Animal Welfare Hotline

If you feel harassed, intimidated, or feel your personal safety is in jeopardy by anyone asking uncomfortable questions about animal care or use at Duke, please report the incident immediately by calling the Animal Welfare Hotline (919-684-3535).

This is an anonymous reporting phone number; be sure and leave your name and call back number if you would like a response from the Duke Animal Program.

Duke University does not tolerate animal abuse or staff harassment and has several mechanisms to support and defend its staff and students from harassment or intimidation. Duke University will assist assuring a safe and healthy working environment.
The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) issued a press release on December 1, stating that it has sent “letters from 26,688 members of the public to 388 federally funded colleges and universities, urging the schools to adopt a formal policy that would protect animals in their laboratories from severe pain and distress.”

HSUS began this campaign in 2008 and now says letters and emails have been sent repeatedly to nearly 600 academic institutions, which are USDA registered, have a PHS assurance or both. According to HSUS, schools typically have received communications of one kind or another at least four times.

Most educational institutions have not responded at all to these fishing expeditions. The HSUS list of institutions that have agreed with the organization’s definition of an adequate policy, along with those that didn’t, is available online.

As of December 15:

- 61 institutions have adopted a policy on pain & distress that satisfies HSUS. HSUS itself concedes that about half of these (27) do not actually receive federal funds for animal research. With a few exceptions, the other half are small institutions (such as community, agricultural or technical colleges) not well known for biomedical science or research programs. While they may receive federal funding of some kind, it is unlikely to involve animal research.

- 79 institutions are in HSUS’ “Does Not Have a Policy” column because either they responded that their policy was based on federal requirements or they did not “clearly” state that “severe pain and distress” is not allowed. A majority in this category are universities with medical and/or other health professions schools as well as significant biomedical research programs.

- 402 institutions have made “No Response,” by far the most common reaction to being contacted (74%). There are both large and small institutions in this category, including many research intensive universities.

Things to do to discourage an unanticipated event while transporting cages:

1. Assure that all animals have been captured and are free from injury. All injuries should be reported to veterinary staff immediately.
2. Clean-up the fallen material. The bedding and feed will invite local wild rodents to the area—not good for them or your research!
3. Report the incident to the IACUC using the web form for Adverse Event / Unanticipated Outcome Notification. Why notify the IACUC? Just so we can be sure the proper protections have been placed to protect you, your animals, and the institution. For some animals (e.g. transgenics), release of an animal, even unintentionally, may cause a federal level review. The IACUC can best protect all concerned if the Committee is promptly informed of the situation.

Things to do when an unanticipated event occurs while transporting cages:

1. Assure the cage top and bottom are connected and the cage is secured with a rubber band or bungee cord (do not use adhesive tape to secure tops and bottoms together!)
2. Place the cage inside of a plastic bag or paper sack, so that if the cage is dropped, the feed and bedding (and animals) will remain inside of the bag / sack.

Why is this important? Because the contract between Duke and the federal government states that we will ensure safety, security, and risk minimization for all animals and studies involving animals at Duke. The best way to ensure we stay in the good graces of the federal agencies is to advise the IACUC when unanticipated events occur.
Partnership to promote proper veterinary drug disposal
(AVMA News (January 15, 2012)

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) are working together to raise awareness among veterinary clients about the importance of proper storage and disposal of unused veterinary medications.

The three-year partnership between the AVMA and NSGO, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was announced Nov. 28, 2011. The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program is representing the NSGO in this collaboration, intended to curb improper disposal of unused drugs, which are a risk to people, animals, and the environment.

Medications placed in the trash without taking precautions to secure the container, make the medication unpalatable, or disguise the contents are potentially accessible to humans and animals, and sometimes result in accidental poisonings.

Pharmaceutical drugs are also turning up in the environment. "Medicine disposal has become an emerging issue as numerous studies have found pharmaceuticals in drinking water and in lakes and rivers," said Laura Kammin, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant pollution prevention specialist. "The long-term impacts are not known, but it's clear that flushing medicines or throwing them in the trash contributes to the problem."

For the past six years, the IISG has worked with communities to develop local medicine collection programs. The IISG offers workshops and provides additional information and support so these local initiatives are safe and successful.

By partnering with the AVMA, the expectation is that the information campaign will reach new audiences, including animal owners who, along with many in the general public, may need to dispose of unused and expired medicine.

By increasing the general public's awareness of options available to them for the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and the environmental consequences of improper disposal, it is hoped and anticipated that fewer and fewer medications will be "flushed or poured into our waters," said Dr. Kristi Henderson, assistant director of the AVMA Scientific Activities Division.

From Previous Column


As part of the collaboration, the IISG worked with Neutron Media, a contractor for CBS, to produce a 15-second public service announcement that communicates the message about drug disposal, pet safety, and water quality via the CBS superscreen in Times Square Plaza. It was set to begin in late December and run for 91 days.

For AVMA information on disposing of pharmaceuticals and other items relevant to veterinary practice, visit the AVMA's microsite, "Waste Disposal by Veterinary Practices: What Goes Where?" at www.avma.org/wastedisposal.

SCIENCE ASSISTANCE FOR TEACHERS

Do you know a teacher (grades K-12) that could use accurate and reliable background information on research? The quarterly biomedical magazine ResearchSaves showcases medical and scientific breakthroughs with foundations in animal research and strong human interest elements. All articles are submitted by universities, nonprofits and companies across the country. Each magazine also includes a full-length DVD, poster or educational program. Annual subscriptions are available for $39, which includes shipping and handling. Complimentary issues are available to K-12 teachers, thanks in large measure to the generous sponsorships granted from individual biomedical researchers.

Click the email link below for more information on how you can help educate the next generation of scientists: info@fbresearch.org
Where's the Momentum?
Time to Change Tactics
(FBR Report)

In 2011, Animal Rights groups raised more than $330 million to eliminate animal research, push a vegan agenda, shut down circuses and zoos, limit animal agriculture, push-back on pet ownership, and curtail the transportation of animals.

Research, agriculture and those who support the humane and responsible use of animals in a modern society raised less than $4 million (worldwide) to counter the animal rights push.

Are we asleep? The momentum is clearly not on our side.

Yet, we KNOW that increased public messaging (advertising, TV shows, billboards, radio, newspapers) translates into INCREASED public support.

Sometimes I wonder if - collectively - we think this sea-change will just go away if we ignore it long enough.

Did you see the latest projection for "Jobs Most in Demand in 2012?" MSNBC reports that according to the US Department of Labor (Labor Stats) our nation's greatest need is more BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS.

Well, unless our nation's SOFTWARE ENGINEERS can quickly develop a better mouse trap (vis-a-vis computer simulators that are better than in vivo for disease and toxicology research) then we will need GREATER public support for the use of animals in research.

For more information about this and other issues and topics concerning animal care & use, visit the FBR website at: http://www.fbresearch.org/.

Double Standard?
You Be the Judge
(FBR Report)

Last month, one of our colleagues recommended that we poll the following scenario in our national survey:

Suppose you suffer from a leaky heart valve, and doctors say you have two years left. You could have valve replacement surgery that might save your life. But, in order to obtain the replacement tissue necessary for the surgery, a pig must be killed.

⇒ Statement A: I would have the surgery. I think it is ethical.
⇒ Statement B: I would have the surgery, but I think it is unethical.
⇒ Statement C: I would not have the surgery, but I think it is ethical.
⇒ Statement D: I would not have the surgery, I think it is unethical.

ANSWERS (from 2,100 adults)
⇒ Statement A 74%
⇒ Statement B 12%
⇒ Statement C 2%
⇒ Statement D 3%
⇒ Not sure 10%

Teasing out a few of the communities, 85% of the men selected Statement A as did 63% of the women. From a political perspective (we are in that season of the year after all) 86% of the Republicans (594 out of 693) selected Statement A as did 70% of the Democrats (558 out of 798) and 68% of the Independents (397 out of 588).

So, it seems that if YOUR life is at stake, most of us (74% of the people) support animal research and find it ethical.