AAALAC is Coming!
1-4 October 2012

AAALAC, International will be at Duke from 1-4 October for the triennial Site Visit of the university's program of animal care & use. This particular Site Visit preparation process has been a bit more challenging than previous Site Visits. In January the NIH endorsed the 8th Edition of The Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals as a core reference document. About the same time, AAALAC, International also accepted The Guide (8th Edition) as a primary assessment tool. The NIH granted a grace period until June 2012, and the AAALAC grace period ends this month.

In response to both agencies, the Duke IACUC conducted intensive reviews of the updated reference and discovered several processes / procedures which required modification or enhanced. Over the past several months, the animal program has been reviewing making tweaks when possible and performing overhauls where necessary to assure our program in fully compliant with the expectations.

We met the NIH deadline of June, and will meet the deadlines of AAALAC. The timing of our regularly scheduled Site Visit in October doesn’t give us any breathing room, so we’ll go straight from final internal assessment to a complete and intensive external review.

While overall we are ready, there remain several items which each of us and check and double check to assure we are in prime condition. Consider using Page 4 of this ‘Animal Tracks’ as a tool to assist with last minute checks and re-checks for the AAALAC Site Visit.

Wishing you a successful research month,

Duke’s Principle of Responsibility

The Duke University Animal Care & Use Program commits itself and its program of animal care to the precepts of responsible conduct and ethical animal care & use as described in the 8th Edition of the Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals (NRC). 'The Guide,' 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. The decision to use animals in research requires critical thought, judgment, and analysis. Using animals in research is a privilege granted by society to the research community with the expectation that such use will provide either significant new knowledge or lead to improvement in human and/or animal well-being. It is a trust that mandates responsible and humane care & use of animals engaged in research, testing, or teaching. Duke University also endorses the responsibilities of investigators as stated in the U.S. Government Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training. These principles direct the research community to accept responsibility for the care and use of animals during all phases of the research effort. Duke University adheres to the 4 R's of Research: Reduction, Replacement, Refinement, and Responsibility. For more information on our ethical code of animal use, see 'Animal Use at Duke - A Overview.'

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A Few Double-Checks to Polish the AAALAC Review

⇒ Review your protocol.
⇒ Have a copy (or on the computer) of the protocol (amendments) in the lab.
⇒ Have a copy of ‘The Guide’ in the lab, or know that you can read it at the website.
⇒ Confirm your procedures match your protocol.
⇒ Assure all procedures are in the protocol.
⇒ Be sure all animal users are IACUC approved.
⇒ Check sterilized equipment for current dates.
⇒ Double-check drug expiration dates.
⇒ Double-check proper storage of materials.
⇒ Double-check accuracy of logs (or update)
⇒ Discard / replace out-of-date items.
⇒ Alert DLAR about all diseased animals.
⇒ Know your HUMAN ENDPOINTS.
⇒ Know your EXPERIMENTAL ENDPOINTS.
⇒ Confirm personnel skills with animal work.
⇒ Ensure that all animal records (e.g. analgesics used, surgical procedures and post-op care) are current and available for inspection.
⇒ Know your approved methods of euthanasia.
⇒ Know your departmental IACUC representative.

How would you answer the question?

⇒ Who is AAALAC?
⇒ Why is AAALAC coming to Duke?
⇒ When will AAALAC be at Duke?
⇒ What will AAALAC do while at Duke?
⇒ Location of your approved protocol?
⇒ Location of your animal records?
⇒ What the protocol says?
⇒ Proper arrangements for animal use?
⇒ Correct sanitation for animal use?
⇒ Certification dates of hoods?
⇒ Certification dates for anes. machines?
⇒ How to report animal use concerns?
⇒ The web location of Animal Program Web?
⇒ The email for IACUC business?
⇒ The animal hotline number?
⇒ The role of the IACUC?
⇒ The role of the DLAR?
⇒ The role of the OAWA?
⇒ The roles & responsibilities of the PI?
⇒ The roles & responsibilities of the lab staff?
⇒ The requirements for waste anesthetic gas?
⇒ Your departmental rep. to the IACUC?
⇒ The IACUC Chairman?
⇒ Your Compliance Liaison?
⇒ The DLAR veterinarians?

Reporting Your Concerns Regarding Animal Care & Use

If you suspect that animal abuse or misuse has occurred at Duke, you have an ethical obligation to report. Visit the Animal Welfare Hotline page for details! If you know about animal welfare concerns and do not report those concerns, then you become part of the problem - don't be part of the problem - report animal abuse or misuse!

Occasionally, unanticipated events occur which were not IACUC approved and may have adverse impacts upon animals or animal well-being. Please fill out the form Adverse Event/Unanticipated Event Report to send it to the email address: IACUC@DUKE.EDU

IACUC Semiannual Site Visits

October 4:
⇒ FOSTER ST.
⇒ BIOLOGY
⇒ FRENCH RESEARCH

October 11:
⇒ DUKE SOUTH
⇒ CR2
⇒ GHRB
⇒ CIEMAS

October 18:
⇒ VIVARIUM
⇒ MSRB1

November 1:
⇒ LEMUR CENTER
⇒ ECOTOX
⇒ MSRB2
Tips for a Successful AAALAC Site Vist

TIP #1: Know your protocols: The most important thing you and your staff can do to prepare for a site visit or any other kind of inspection is to review and understand what has been approved in the animal protocols. If you discover that changes need to be made you will need to submit a modification. Site visitors will talk to you and your staff about the procedures you perform and they will review your protocols to ensure congruency.

TIP #2: Ensure personnel are listed on the protocol and have access to the most recent versions: Since research personnel and students rotate in and out of labs frequently it can often be difficult to keep the paperwork updated. It is very important that all personnel working with animals are listed on the protocols under which they are working and that they have the ability to look at those protocols whenever needed.

TIP #3: Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE): Shoe covers are required into all facilities. Follow signage for PPE on doors of animal rooms.

TIP #4: Maintaining surgical records: While detailed animal health records may not be required for the species you work with, it is very important that you are keeping some record of surgical procedures on specific animals or groups of animals. These records should reflect what procedures the animals have undergone and verification that they received the appropriate Pre- and Post-operative treatment, including analgesia.

TIP #5: Proper aseptic technique: When performing surgeries it is crucial to apply the appropriate aseptic technique for the procedure. The IACUC policies for Aseptic Technique provide the basic requirements for applying aseptic technique.

TIP #6: Labeled materials: All materials (such as disinfectants in spray bottles, etc) must be properly labeled.

TIP #7: Expired materials: Any substance, material or device that goes in or on an animal as part of a survival procedure must be within its expiration date. Any substance used for anesthesia, analgesia, or treatment as part of a non-survival procedure must be within its expiration date. If you are unsure about how to dispose of expired drugs or substances please contact OAWA (Bill Wade @ 668.6720).

TIP #8: Controlled substances: Controlled drugs must have corresponding log sheets that have been completed with all required information and the drugs must be secured behind 2 locks. If drugs have been diluted or mixed, the container must be labeled with this information and the date on which the new mixture was made. If you have questions, contact OAWA (Bill Wade @ 919.668.6722).

TIP #9: Microdrop technique for Isoflurane anesthesia: If you are using isoflurane without a vaporizer there are a few things to keep in mind: a) the animals cannot come into contact with the anesthetic, b) you need to know how to calculate the correct dose of isoflurane for your container, and c) the container must be allowed to vent the waste gas at the end of the procedure.

TIP #10: Gas vaporizer certification: Anesthesia vaporizers must be validated annually unless manufacturer recommendations indicate otherwise. DLAR can provide contacts for validation. F-Air canisters must be weighed and recorded before the first use; weight after each anesthetic session and record weight; discard the F-Air after a weight change of 50 grams. F-Air canisters should be resting on its side.

TIP #11: Special diet storage: If you are storing a non-standard animal diet or food treat in your lab you must have the proper signage, and the diet should be stored in conditions based on the manufacturer recommendations. Food must be stored in air tight containers and labeled with the name, manufacture date and/or open date, and the expiration date. If the food item is a common human foodstuff, it must be labeled “not for human consumption”.

TIP #12: Clutter: Please remove all materials stored on the floor. Do not store cardboard on the floor or under the sink.

TIP #13: Needles: Please do not recap needles. Needles and sharps should be placed directly into the sharps container.

TIP #14: Safety: Common safety issues found in labs include unrestrained gas cylinders, failing to replace covers on eyewash stations and conducting work in uncertified chemical fume hoods or biosafety cabinets. If you see any of these issues in the ARP housing facilities, please report it to the ARP building supervisor or care staff.

TIP #15: Signage: Know and understand what cage markers indicate and how to respond (such as: Attention Sick Animal, Clinical, Separated, and Overcrowded). Room signs should be printed out and laminated for posting. If you have questions, contact

The Key? Just relax and be proud of the work you do in your lab. You are the expert in your area of research. There is no reason you can’t be open and excited to discuss your work and animal use with the site visitors. In fact, openness and professional interactions are the best way you can support the institution and help assure we remain accredited with AAALAC, International for the next three years!
Benefits of Accreditation

It represents quality: Organizations and companies look for ways to communicate their commitment to excellence. In the scientific community, AAALAC International accreditation shows that an institution is serious about setting, achieving and maintaining high standards for animal care and use and committed to animal welfare in science. AAALAC International offers the only international accreditation for animal care and use programs, and it has become recognized around the world as a sign of quality and good science.

It promotes scientific validity: When research involves animals, reliable scientific results depend on superior animal care. AAALAC International accreditation engages scientists, veterinarians, managers and administrators in an independent, rigorous assessment of their institution’s animal program—an assessment that ultimately results in improved animal welfare and better research practices and outcomes.

It provides assurance in a global marketplace: Today it’s common for research institutions to partner or contract with other research entities around the world. Because laws and regulations related to animal research vary widely from country to country, AAALAC International accreditation can be used worldwide as a way to gauge the quality of a particular program, harmonize animal care and use practices, and provide assurance to diverse stakeholders.

It’s a recruiting tool AAALAC International accredited institutions can use their accreditation as a recruiting tool to attract the best and brightest researchers and professors. Talented professionals look for high quality programs to support their research. Accreditation assures potential employees that the institution is dedicated to achieving the highest standards for animal care and use.

It demonstrates accountability: In today’s world, companies and organizations are held to very high levels of accountability—by their own constituents and the general public. Although animal research is a controversial issue for some, most people support biomedical research if it’s conducted in a humane manner. Accreditation through AAALAC International is voluntary and demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond the minimums required by law. It tells the public that the institution is committed to the responsible care and use of animals in science.

It provides a confidential peer-review: AAALAC accreditation requires an institution to first perform its own self-evaluation (an extremely valuable exercise for any institution to undertake). Next, a team of highly qualified AAALAC representatives provides an in-depth, confidential, on-site evaluation of the institution’s animal care and use program. This independent peer-review ensures that the institution’s program is meeting AAALAC International standards.

It stimulates continuous improvement: When an institution participates in the AAALAC accreditation program, it’s committing to a process that stimulates continuous improvement. Earning and maintaining accreditation keeps an institution aware of, and engaged in, current best practices. Accreditation is a true commitment to humane animal care and use and shows the world that an institution is serious about ensuring animal well-being and conducting good science.

Ref: Narrative from the AAALAC Reference Web
GRANT FUNDING:

ACCREDITATION

IMPACTS

FUNDING

OPPORTUNITIES
ACCREDITATION IMPACTS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

site visitors will be here