



ANIMAL TRACKS



An Electronic Newsletter for the Duke Research Community

January 2006



<http://www.duhs.duke.edu>

New Communication Media for the Duke Research Community

Dear Colleagues:

The Duke Animal Care & Use Program has initiated this new electronic communication tool as a means of improved information exchange between the animal care and use program and the Duke research community. It is our intent to publish a number of issues each year, approximately on a monthly basis, but driven by the need to share new, enhanced, useful, or practical information on how to more seamlessly interact with the Duke program for animal care & use.

While the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance (OAWA) will serve as editor and publisher, this is an animal program effort. OAWA will lend counsel in each issue with a Q&A section focusing on topics of concern to researchers at Duke, updates from the research world outside of Duke, and upcoming important deadlines. The Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) will provide reviews of program enhancements, process adjustments, or regulatory changes. The Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) will from time to time describe critical animal care or husbandry concerns or other facility updates.

We do hope this is not solely a one way information exchange. Please submit your questions or concerns through the already established email address: IACUC@DUKE.EDU.

Please forward this E-newsletter to members of your laboratory or send their email addresses to IACUC@DUKE.EDU for addition of their name to the E-mailing list.

Working together, we can assure the Duke program for animal care and use remains nationally recognized for the humane, progressive, and productive manner in which we advance the causes of human and animal health and the environment.

Best wishes for a safe and productive year,

New Policy: Top Shelf Housing of Rodents

The Duke Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (DIACUC) recently approved a new policy regarding the housing of rodents on the top shelf of racks. Rodents should be housed in a manner that is supportive of normal housing with protection from adverse environmental conditions, including excessive light.

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals states the light level should be between 130 and 325 lux for animals that are susceptible to phototoxic retinopathy. The Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) has determined light levels on top shelves of racks often exceed these recommended levels and may approach 1000 lux.

The policy prohibits the routine housing of rodents with either pigmented or non-pigmented eyes on the top shelf of static rack systems. Exemptions to the policy (e.g. provision for reduced light levels by removing a bulb, providing a canopy, or other light protection mechanisms) requires prior approval from DIACUC, and is considered on a case-by-case basis.

To see a full copy of the policy, visit this link: http://vetmed.duhs.duke.edu/documents/iacuc/pdf/policy_on_top_shelf_housing_of_rodents.pdf

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AAALAC, International to Visit Duke

Duke is scheduled to receive its triennial site visit from the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC International) in late Summer or early Fall, 2006. We offer this first installment of a continuing series of articles designed to inform the Duke research community of the AAALAC International process.

AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. AAALAC has been working to promote animal well-being and enhance life sciences research and education since 1965.

AAALAC evaluates all aspects of the animal care and use program. An animal program includes an organization's procedures and overall performance in the area of animal care and use in research, education, testing or breeding. The basic components that are evaluated include (but are not limited to) institutional policies, animal husbandry, veterinary care, and the physical plant.

The principal reference used to evaluate our animal program will be the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the 9th CRF (ISDA Regulations)*. Supplemental references are used to provide information on specialty topics and widely accepted scientific practices, procedures, and techniques.

There are several reasons why accreditation is important to our program of animal care and use: it symbolizes quality, it's a recruiting tool, it impresses funding sources, it demonstrates accountability, it promotes scientific validity, it provides a confidential peer-review, and it shows a real commitment to human animal care.

For more information on AAALAC International visit their website at www.aaalac.org.

Upcoming Events

February 6	Amendment deadline
February 6	New protocol deadline
February 6	CO ₂ training
February 14	CO ₂ training
February 16	Amendment meeting
February 20	Amendment deadline
February 22	CO ₂ training
February 23	IACUC meeting
March 2	Amendment meeting

Aging Mice

Not sure when the mice were born? The animal program has a photo chart for aging mice on the animal program web site at: http://vetmed.duhs.duke.edu/guidelines_for_aging_mice.htm

Duke Animal Program Policies

A list of current animal program policies is available on the animal program web site at the address: http://vetmed.duhs.duke.edu/index_of_program_policies.htm



Duke Animal Program Suggestions and Best Practices

A list of current animal program suggestions and best practices is available on the animal program web site at the address: http://vetmed.duhs.duke.edu/index_of_guidelines_for_animal_care.htm

Q & A

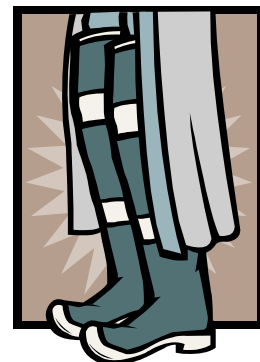
Question: I am interested in collaborating with other researchers. What do I need to do to ensure my activities are in compliance?

Answer: The DIACUC encourages collaboration among researchers. When considering a collaborative effort, ensure all personnel engaging in the activities and the specific collaborative activities are included in the protocol under which the animals are ordered, housed, and used. For example, Dr. Jones wants to enter into a collaboration with Dr. Smith and perform procedures A, B, and C with Dr. Smith's mice. The personnel and procedures are on Dr. Jones' protocol, but not Dr. Smith's. Dr. Jones and all related personnel as well as the procedures A, B, and C must be added via amendment to Dr. Smith's protocol before the work can commence. Likewise, Dr. Smith can transfer animals to Dr. Jones by requesting a cage card transfer from DLAR and subsequently perform the approved procedures A, B, and C under her own protocol.

Question: Why is the approval of my protocol or related amendments reviewed by OESO?

Answer: Animal protocols that include work with hazardous materials are to be reviewed by the Occupational and Environmental Safety Office to ensure that all safety and health requirements are met and that hazardous agents are to be handled in a manner that ensures minimal exposure risks to the worker, the animal, and the environment. Protocols that do not meet all OESO requirements cannot be approved by the IACUC until clearance has been granted by OESO. Employees can check their safety training and employee health requirements by logging on to www.safety.duke.edu and selecting on-line training from the menu. Employees will need their Duke ID to log in to on-line training. If you feel that the displayed requirements are not correct for your position, please contact OESO by sending an email to safety@mc.duke.edu.

Do you have a question relating to some aspect of the animal care program at Duke? Please send your questions for future columns to sonia.doss@duke.edu



Occupational and Environmental Safety Office (OESO) Resources

There are a number of resources available on-line at www.safety.duke.edu and provided by OESO to assist researchers in assuring all lab personnel have completed required training items for protocol approval. For example:

1. **A list** of safety requirements that laboratory personnel may require is provided on the main safety web site page. This list should be used as a guide and does not necessarily apply to all lab personnel.
2. **Employees** can view their requirements and compliance status from the on-line training page by logging in with their Duke Unique ID and last name. Access to safety training is also available from this page. If the supervisor or employee has questions about the designated requirements, they should contact Cackie Joyner at 668-3210.
3. **Principal Investigators** can access safety reports that provide training status. Principal Investigators should contact Cackie Joyner at 668-3210 for access to on-line reports for their staff members.
4. **Principal Investigators** can check the status of employees on a particular protocol. This web page allows you to run a status report for each employee on the protocol. Contact Cackie Joyner at 668-3210 for access to this specific page.