



ANIMAL TRACKS



A newsletter for the Duke research community

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

AAALAC Will Want to Know ...

In previous issues of 'Animal Tracks' we have discussed why AAALAC is coming and what is AAALAC (See the June or July issues). This edition will address potential questions that the AAALAC site visitors have been known to ask research staff while performing laboratory reviews.

When AAALAC visits later this fall, the AAALAC site team will select certain research laboratories to visit. Their goal: Find evidence of knowledgeable staff performing approved animal care practices. Often they will ask laboratory staff open ended questions—the goal: to determine the staff have a good understanding of the process of animal care, animal use, and animal oversight. One might get asked:

- ◆ Tell me about your participation in the Duke's occupational health and safety program?
- ◆ Where would you report a concern regarding suspicious or inappropriate animal care or use?
- ◆ What do you do is someone unfamiliar is seen walking through your laboratory? Through the vivarium?
- ◆ Do you perform euthanasia? Have you attended euthanasia training? What is the method for assuring euthanasia was effective? What are the options for euthanasia?
- ◆ What 'patient monitoring' actions do you perform while your animals are under anesthesia? Where do you record these observations? Please show us your animal records.
- ◆ How were you trained to do the procedure I am observing today? How many years experience do you have?
- ◆ What are the procedures for using 'controlled' drugs?
- ◆ Where is the lab copy of the animal protocol you are performing today?
- ◆ How do you transport animals around campus?
- ◆ Who is the DLAR veterinarian that you work with? Have you ever called them with a problem? Was it resolved?
- ◆ Why are you wearing protective clothing? Is this a biohazard? Do you wear a N-95? Was it fit tested?
- ◆ Do you keep animals in the lab longer than 12 hours? Show us your daily observation records (if > 12 hours)?
- ◆ What is the IACUC? The DLAR? The OAWA?

Laboratories could use this list of questions at their next lab staff meeting to initiate a discussion on the AAALAC accreditation process. If you would like to have someone from the animal program attend your next lab meeting to answer questions about Duke's accreditation, please contact the OAWA at 668-6720 or send an Email to ron.banks@duke.edu.

Best wishes for a safe and productive research week!

New Program Reference

Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Research Animals

NOTE: *The Duke IACUC has approved a new PROGRAM REFERENCE for the Duke animal care & use program. A brief discussion concerning proper methods of animal transport between institutions (or between vendors and your institution) is provided below and on page 3 of this newsletter.*

Arranging the transportation of animals at research facilities is often an ordeal. There is a confusing patchwork of local, national, and international regulations; a perceived lack of high-quality shipping services; a scarcity of science-based good practices; and a lack of biosafety standards. Animal transportation between institutions can be challenge! *Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Research Animals* identifies the current problems encountered in the transportation of research animals and offers recommendations aimed at local and federal officials to resolve these problems.

This book also includes a set of good practices based on the extensive body of literature on transportation of agricultural animals, universal concepts of physiology, and a scientific understanding of species-specific needs and differences. Good practices were developed by the committee to address thermal environment, space requirements, food and water requirements, social interaction, monitoring of transportation, emergency procedures, personnel training, and biosecurity. *Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Research Animals* is an essential guide for all researchers, animal care technicians, facilities managers, administrators, and animal care and use committees at research institutions.

While DLAR arranges and assures safe transport of Duke owned animals, researchers and others who have reason to ship animals may find this reference useful.

This reference can be reviewed at the DLAR or OAWA office. It is not currently available on the web. To obtain a copy of this reference book, contact the National Academies Press at 1-888-624-8422 or visit them on the web at www.nap.edu.

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From Your Colleagues at DLAR

The following is a summary of the steps for ordering drugs from the DLAR pharmacy. Information covered includes answers to frequently asked questions about forms: where to find them, information that is needed, and what to do with the forms once they're filled out. If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Cindy Bowman at the numbers provided.

Ordering Drugs from the DLAR Pharmacy: *Frequently Asked Questions*



How do I order drugs?

- An IR (interdepartmental request) form is required.
- This form is available on the Duke Financial Services website (www.finsvc.duke.edu).
- Click on "Accounting Procedures", then "Forms"
- Under "Miscellaneous", available as Excel or Acrobat
- Include PI name, fund code, protocol number, contact name, phone number with voice mail or email, and items needed on the IR form.
- Fax IR forms to 668-1642 (Attention Cindy Bowman), or leave at Vivarium front desk drop box.

How are orders filled?

Non-controlled Items

- Orders for non-controlled items will be filled within 48 hours of receipt of order form.
- Contact person/requestor will be notified via telephone or email when orders are ready.
- Completed orders will be left at the Vivarium front desk—they may be picked up anytime between 8am and 5pm.

Controlled Items (DEA 'scheduled' drugs III—V)

- Controlled items may only be picked up directly from the pharmacy technician.
- Pharmacy hours are between 2pm and 4 pm, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
- You may come to the Vivarium front desk anytime during these hours, and have the pharmacy technician paged (Cindy Bowman, or designee).

What should I do with my empty bottles?

Please return all empty controlled drug bottles with log sheets to Cindy Bowman, either in person or dropped off at the Vivarium front desk.

What should I do with my expired controlled drugs?

Expired controlled drugs may be returned to the DLAR pharmacy for appropriate disposal—these must be returned to Cindy Bowman in person. **DO NOT DUMP THEM IN A SINK!**

Pharmacy questions/requests may be directed to Cindy Bowman at 684-6986, pager 970-7577, or cindy.bowman@duke.edu

Guinea Pig Physiological Data

Body temperature:	98.6-103.1°F
Heart rate (per minute)	230-320
Resp. rate (per minute)	42-104
Weight, adult male:	500-800 g
Weight, adult female	500-800 g
Weight, newborn:	70-90 g
Water consumption:	50-80 ml
Food consumption	30-48 g
Life span:	4-6 years
Sexual maturity:	60-90 days
Estrous cycle freq:	16-18 days
Duration of estrus:	6-11 hours
Gestation period:	60-65 days
Average litter size:	2-4
Begins eating dry food:	4-6 days
Age at weaning:	18-24 days
Breeding life:	2-4 years

Reference: Laboratory Animal Data: Quick Reference Guide for Researchers, AALAS)



Q and A

QUESTION: I want to obtain a copy of an approved IACUC protocol. How do I get a copy?

ANSWER: A copy of the protocol file can only be distributed by OAWA staff to personnel who are listed and approved on the protocol; however, if a principle investigator wishes to have a copy sent to someone who is not listed on the protocol, s/he may request in writing (email) that a copy be sent to someone who is not listed on the protocol.

QUESTION: I am completing a new protocol form and don't know what to put in the alternatives to animal use section.

ANSWER: The IACUC requires an actual date (month/day/year) that the literature search was performed. An acceptable answer to this section would be "A literature search was performed on 7/4/06 covering the dates 1996-2006. You should also include the search keywords and the results of the search. For more information, please check out the website at: http://vetmed.duhs.duke.edu/index_of_lit_search_engines.htm

Upcoming Events

September 7	SC meeting
September 11	New Protocol Deadline
September 11	SC deadline
September 21	SC meeting
September 25	SC deadline
September 28	IACUC meeting
October 5	SC meeting

SC= Significant change



Overcoming the Challenges of Animal Transportation

Transporting animals has always been a complex task. But in recent months, several factors have made it even more difficult. The dwindling number of commercial airlines willing to carry animals, changing regulations from Homeland Security, and different import and quarantine laws for each individual country make transporting animals a time consuming and expensive aspect of biomedical research.

Of overarching concern when transporting animals is the welfare of the animals during transport. Once animals are turned over to an airline or ground carrier, control is relinquished to the carrier and the shipper must rely on a third party to make sure the animals receive proper care. Good planning and extensive communication is critical to the successful transportation of research animals. and extensive planning

When shipping animals to another institution, particularly if the institution is located outside the United States, there may be as many as a half dozen different regulations and guidelines that require attention. It is critical for research staff to become familiar with the regulatory and oversight rules and guidelines, and where to turn for information about the latest requirements.



Other key organizations concerned with animal transport:

- ◆ USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Care. www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/
- ◆ USDA, Veterinary Services www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/
- ◆ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm
- ◆ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) www.fws.gov
- ◆ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) www.cites.org
- ◆ U.S. Customs. Visit www.customs.gov for U.S. import and export information.
- ◆ Customs laws of the receiving country. Check the trade laws for each individual country for details.
- ◆ International Air Transport Association (IATA). www.iata.org
- ◆ Animal Transportation Association (AATA). www.aata-animaltransport.org
- ◆ Office International des Epizooties (World Organization for Animal Health) www.oie.int

If you are considering shipping animals, be sure to know the applicable rules regarding quarantine for your shipment, particularly for nonhuman primates. The CDC and APHIS can provide specific information on this.

Tom Schooler, President of Animal Port Houston (a live animal freight forwarding company) and board member of the Animal Transportation Association (AATA), offers several paperwork tips ... "First, make sure that all original documents accompany the animals. Hand sign all documents (no stamps or computer signatures) —not doing so can hold up your shipment. Remember that the health certificate is an official international document, and the original should accompany the

animals," Schooler says.

Schooler notes that a great deal of care should be taken to obtain proper shipping containers. Start with a hard and rigid shipping container - something that won't get damaged or become soggy if it gets wet. After you find good containers, mark the outside clearly. There are accounts of containers being shrink-wrapped on airport cargo docks because they were not marked "Live Animals." Make sure there can be no doubt about the contents of the containers.

Using high-quality shipping containers will go a long way in making sure the animals' primary enclosure environment is comfortable. Adequate food and hydration sources must be provided—enough to account for the trip plus any possible delays. It also helps to provide a good, absorbent bedding for the animals. Be mindful of food products that could pose a customs problem. For example, certain fruits or vegetables might not be permitted into some states or countries. The same holds true for other materials that might be found in or on animal crates, such as pieces of bark.

Just as important are the ambient conditions at the time of shipping. Excessive heat and cold are the biggest threats to animal health. Pay attention to the weather. If it's summer, you want to ship during the coolest part of the day, or perhaps at night. Try to get a routing that has the fewest number of stops along the way. While there are always exceptions, generally speaking, the temps must be between 45 F and 85 F everywhere the animals will be moved / held on the ground (warehouse) before they can be shipped.

One biggest problem in long distance shipping is the misrouting of animals. Staying in contact with all parties involved along the way can help avoid these situations, and help ensure a smoother trip for the animals. Get a tracking number and follow the shipment! Do not stop communicating until the receiving institution confirms that they have the animals in their facility!

More for information on this topic, please see the article on page 1.....

OLAW Brochure Targeted Toward Investigator Responsibilities

OLAW has created a brochure intended to communicate to investigators concerning their responsibilities under 'PHS Grants Policy' and 'PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.'

What Investigators Need to Know About the Use of Animals provides a concise resource for investigators to quickly grasp the main expectations and requirements when using animals in research supported by the PHS. The brochure may be accessed as a PDF at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/InvestigatorsNeed2Know.pdf> or in a MS Word format at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/InvestigatorsNeed2Know.doc>.