Preparing for an AAALAC (and IACUC) Site Visit

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About This Presentation

- Help you prepare for AAALAC site visit (as well as IACUC inspections)
- Respond correctly to site visitors
Acronyms

AAALAC International - Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International

IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

ACUP – Animal Care and Use Protocol
Acronyms

- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
- AWA – Animal Welfare Act
- AALAS – American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
- OLAW – Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
What’s AAALAC?

- Voluntary
- Peer review
Who Participates?

- First accreditation: 1965
- Nearly 900 accredited institutions in 36 countries
AAALAC's Role

“Gold Standard”

Where science & good animal care connect

Non-accredited perceived as “what’s wrong with ‘your’ program?”
Symbolizes Quality

Demonstrates institution’s commitment to high standards of animal care in science
Promotes Scientific Validity

- Superior animal care
- Better research practices
- Reliable/publishable data
Many talented professionals look for high quality (AAALAC accredited) programs
Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals

- The base document used by AAALAC to evaluate the program
IACUC Role

- Review protocol, facilities, labs, entire animal care program every 6 Mo
- Address animal concerns
PI’s Responsibilities

- No deviations from approved protocol
- Registrations and approvals current
- Animal use documentation and records
Is this your lab?
Or is this your lab?
First Impressions

- Organized, clean, neat, tidy
- Unorganized triggers “digging deeper” (human nature!)
- Convey image that you are interested in a quality program
- Good Animal Care = Good Science
General Lab Housekeeping

- Avoid accidental entry of personnel not listed in protocol while working with animals
- No eating or drinking in lab
- All surfaces cleaned/disinfected with appropriate agents. Do you have SOPs?
- Lab supplies properly stored & in date
Be sure the “Whistleblower” sign (& all other safety signs) are posted in lab.
IACUC Protocol

- You & your staff should know your protocol
- Should match grant application
- No deviations
- Has everyone in lab read it & knows how to access the APPROVED protocol?
Sick Animal?

- Do you know what do you do with a sick animal during & after work hours?
- Do you know the endpoints at which the animal should be euthanized?
- Remember: ALL clinical care (non-research related) must be coordinated through the LARC
Anesthesia/Analgesia

- Use only as approved in ACUP
- Gas vaporizers should be calibrated yearly (unless otherwise indicated in manual)
- Scavenge waste anesthetic gas by exhausting it through a hood or charcoal canister
Rodent Surgery

- Peri-operative care consistent with your ACUP
- Major emphasis on sterile technique (survival surgery)
• Dedicated space while surgery being conducted
• Prep area separate from surgery area
Surgical Issues:

- **Peri-operative Records**
- **Pre-op**
  - Separate prep vs. surgery area
  - Meds, anesthesia, analgesia
  - Eye ointment
  - Surgical site prep
  - Surgical garb
- **Intra-op**
  - Sterile field
  - Depth
  - Bleeding
  - Closure
  - Temp
- **Post-op**
  - Hydration
  - Analgesia (default)
  - Observation
  - Records
Pre-op:

- Hair removal
- Eye ointment
- Site prep
  - Chlorhexidine SCRUB followed by alcohol, sterile water or saline wipe x 3
  - Then Chlorhexidine SOLUTION

- Chlorhexidine superior to povidone iodine
Surgeon:

- Mask
- Wash hands
- Sterile gloves
- Cap (long hair)
- Long sleeves
Surgical Drape:

- Single use
**Intra-op:**

- Maintain sterility
- Monitor depth of anesthesia (rear toe pinch)
- Watch for respiration character
- Maintain warm
- Control bleeding
- Tissue perfusion, i.e. pink foot pads
- Proper closure
Post-op:

- Never leave unconscious animal unattended (monitor continuously until righting reflex)
- Don’t forget to record analgesics
- Supportive therapy (heat, fluids as needed)
- Notify LARC if any complications
- Monitor incision & animal daily ≥ 5 days… make daily entries in green post-Sx card
- Remove & record skin sutures/clips 10-14 da
Surgery Date________________________

Sutures/Clips Removal (date)____________

RODENT POST-SURGICAL CARE CARD

Protocol # ______________________________

Animal ID ______________________________

PI ______________________________

Contact Ph # ______________________________

Surgery Site (e.g. abdomen, hind leg, head, etc.)

_____________________________________

Drugs, Doses and Routes (Anesthetics, Analgesics, Antibiotics, fluids, etc.)

_____________________________________

Post-operative monitoring/notes must be continued minimum of 5 days after surgery

Date/Time   Remarks (Incision, Pain, Rx, Behavior, etc)
Initials

Date & sign all entries

CDLARC003-01
Euthanasia

- Must be as approved in ACUP – NO DEVIATIONS
- CO₂ followed by physical method
- Physical method w/o anesthesia requires specialized training and justification
- Use of a guillotine for euthanasia requires that it be properly maintained & users training be documented for effectiveness & safety
Drugs

- Only use drugs listed in the ACUP
- Do you have a system for identifying and disposing of expired drugs?
- No flushing down the drain (EPA)
- Contact EHSRM to dispose of expired drugs (controlled and non-controlled)
Using Controlled Drugs?

- Inventory matches volume?
- Know “UTSA Controlled Substance in Research Policy”
  [http://www.utsa.edu/Safety/#/safetymanuals](http://www.utsa.edu/Safety/#/safetymanuals)
Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Drugs

- Pharmaceutical grade is default unless not commercially available
- Must be approved in protocol
Occupational Health

- All animal users MUST enroll in OHP program
- Enrollment means submitting medical health questionnaire to OHP
- IMPORTANT: Have you enrolled yet?
- http://www.utsa.edu/Safety/#/workplace/occupational
Occupational Health

Non-paid students and volunteers enroll through LARC, larc@utsa.edu, x-6692
Physical Injuries

- Do you know what to do?
- Report to supervisor
- Supervisor reports to EHSRM
- PPE – do you know what is required?
Sharps

- No over-filled disposal containers
- No needle re-capping
Chemicals

- All chemical containers must be labeled
- If appropriate, an expiration date on label
- Keep chemicals away from human or animal food items
Certifications

- Gas anesthetic vaporizers – annually
- Biological safety cabinets – annually
- Balancing must be within calibration date (follow manufacturer’s recommendation)
Records

- Training
- Chemical inventory & MSDS
- Approved protocol
- DEA Drugs
- Experimental data
If you are transporting animals between vivarium & lab, how do you do it?

Answer:

- I place a filter top on cage
- I cover cage with plastic so animals are not seen
- I use the least trafficked area
- Between floors I use service elevator
- I remove the plastic cover as soon as I get to the lab to avoid suffocation
Animal Housing

- Avoid overcrowded (OC) cages
Animal Housing

- **Identification**
  - LARC cage cards must be on all cages
  - Use LARC Cage Card Request to ID new cages (e.g. when weaning)
Question: What's the max time you will keep your bird, mouse or rat in your lab?

Answer: I never ever keep them in my lab for longer than 24 hours
Satellite Facilities
Satellite Facilities

- Animal enclosures must be tested for adequate sanitation if not sanitized by LARC
  - e.g. culturing the cage or cage accessory periodically (at least monthly)
- LARC can assist you with testing
Satellite Facilities SOPs

- Disinfecting agent(s) & how performed
- Verification of cleaning
- Feed and schedule
- Daily health checks (submitted to LARC weekly)
- Water quality
- Sick animals, euthanasia, etc.
We Can All Succeed

Don’t allow your lab to jeopardize accreditation, because…

Successful accreditation will happen if every animal care component succeeds, & that includes YOU

Be proactive with LARC & IACUC… Talk to us!