Benefits of AAALAC International Accreditation

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AAALAC's mission

Promote well-being of animals, safe work environment & quality animal-based research… through… performance-based standards and professional judgment within the framework of the ‘Guide’ & other references/regulations.
Intangible benefits

- It is the "Gold standard"
  ‘Non-accredited’ perceived as “why not?”
- Symbol of Quality animal care & research
- Promotes Scientific validity
Accredited UT Institutions

- UT at San Antonio
- UT at Austin
- UT Health Science Center at Houston
- UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
- UT at Arlington
- University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston
- University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Bastrop
- University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Smithville
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
- University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
History

- 1965: AAALAC is born
- 1996: AAALAC becomes AAALAC International for its expansion around the world
- Today: AAALAC International accreditation in ~900 institutions in 36 countries
Board of Trustees

- AAALAC’s Board of Trustees: >60 prestigious scientific, educational and others are members of AAALAC International. Ex:
  - American Diabetes Association
  - American Heart Association
  - American Veterinary Medical Association
  - European Society of Lab Animal Veterinarians
  - Academy of Surgical Research
  - The Society of Toxicology
- Appoints AAALAC Council
Council

- Responsible for evaluating animal care programs & determining their accreditation status
- Chosen on extensive experience in vet medicine, lab animal science & animal research
- Divided into N. American, European & Pacific Rim Sections
- Conducts site visits & evaluations
- Appoints ad hoc consultants to assist with site visits & provide specific expertise
So Why Accreditation?
Represents Quality

- Shows an organization’s commitment to excellence
- Shows institution is serious about high standards of animal use & commitment to animal welfare in science
- AAALAC offers the only international accreditation for animal care and use programs, recognized around the world as a sign of quality & good science
Promotes Scientific Validity

- Reliable results depend on superior animal care
- Accreditation engages scientists, veterinarians, managers and administrators in an independent, rigorous assessment of their institution’s animal program—resulting in improved animal welfare & research outcomes
Provides Assurance in a Global Marketplace

- Accreditation can be used worldwide as a way to gauge the quality of a program, harmonize animal care and use practices, and provide assurance to diverse stakeholders.
A Recruiting Tool

- Talented researchers, professors & professionals look for high quality programs to support their research
- Assures potential employees that institution is dedicated to achieving the highest standards for animal care and use
Demonstrates Accountability

- Accreditation 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
Provides a Confidential Peer-review

- AAALAC accreditation requires self-evaluation
- Next, AAALAC site visitors provide in-depth, confidential, on-site evaluation
- Such independent peer-review ensures that the institution’s program is meeting AAALAC International standards
Stimulates Continuous Improvement

- Participation in AAALAC accreditation stimulates continuous improvement
- Shows the world that an institution is serious about ensuring animal well-being and conducting good science