MEMORANDUM
To: Personnel Utilizing Animals for Research or Teaching
From: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Subject: Important Information about the Upcoming Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care, International Site Visit
Date: July 10, 2014

‘AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs.’

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) will host a site visit by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) August 4 – 7, 2014. The purpose of the visit is to assess UNC’s animal care program and to determine whether UNC-CH will retain its long-standing AAALAC accreditation which is essential for UNC-CH to maintain its status as one of the top research institutions in the country. Participation in this accreditation process is voluntary, although it is important for all researchers at UNC-CH to have an understanding of this process and to demonstrate a commitment to high quality animal care and use.

AAALAC representatives will visit investigator laboratories and ask questions concerning the care and treatment of animals and specifics of the approved animal protocols. Consequently, it is prudent for all researchers to prepare for this visit, as it is up to the discretion of AAALAC representatives to select specific laboratories. If the principal investigator will not be available during the visit, please ensure that an informed and qualified laboratory representative, preferably the laboratory animal coordinator, is available. Please ask your personnel who are involved with animal work to review the current applications and amendments to ensure that all procedures are conducted as described in the IACUC-approved application.

The Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) Training and Compliance Coordinators have been reviewing essential information with you during your semi-annual laboratory inspections. Investigator-maintained satellite housing areas, facilities with an approved animal procedural space exception (APSE), and areas where surgical procedures are conducted will be a particular focus of the AAALAC site visitors. At the time of the visit, areas where animal procedures are conducted should be clean and orderly, drug inventories should be assessed for expired agents, and anesthetic and analgesic records should be readily available.

AAALAC will conduct its visit based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition

The following are typical questions posed by site visitors:

- Describe the animal procedures conducted in the laboratory
How do animal handlers access approved applications
What training is received prior to working with animals
What are the approved study endpoints
What approved method(s) of euthanasia are described in your application
- equipment maintenance (e.g. guillotine)
- are you familiar with the revised AVMA CO2 guidelines
What is the maximum time animals are allowed in the laboratory
- Satellite/APSE
  - requirement for daily animal observation and husbandry care
  - describe the routine cleaning of the facility

- Survival surgical procedures
  - Describe the principles of aseptic technique
    - Describe how the following are prepared:
      - site (e.g.: separate area, heat pad, surgical towel, free of clutter)
      - animal (e.g.: shaving, aseptic prep of incision site)
      - surgeon (e.g.: hair bonnet, gloves, lab coat, face mask)
      - instruments (e.g.: initial and in-between animal sterilization)
      - use of sterile gloves or no-touch technique
  - surgical and postoperative monitoring records

- Anesthetic and/or Analgesic agents
  - approved agents, pharmaceutical grade
  - routes of administration
  - administration schedule (e.g.: every 6 hours for 48 hours)
  - approved dosage and concentration
  - records of use
  - Inhalational anesthetic agents
    - anesthetic vaporizer maintenance
    - waste gas scavenging (e.g.: active or passive form)
    - monitoring and disposal of charcoal canisters
    - securing high pressure tanks

- General Processes
  - reporting a sick animal
  - enrollment in University Occupational Health Program
    - animal handler form – updated annually
    - how to proceed if allergy to lab animals is suspected
  - reporting an animal concern or application non-compliance
    - how to proceed and who to contact
    - whistleblower protection
  - disposal of carcasses
  - transportation to / from a housing facility
    - knowledge of IACUC approved transport policy
    - concealment of cages (e.g: dirty/clean, with/without animals)

AAALAC International Position Statements

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming site visit please contact
Dr. Craig Fletcher (Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine) Email
Ms. Emily Hearne (OACU Training and Compliance Manager) Email
Dr. Tracy Heenan (Director, Office of Animal Care and Use) Email or
Dr. Mitch Picker (IACUC Chair) Email