The AAALAC Site Visit

What to expect
UNC will host an AAALAC site visit August 4 – 7, 2014

- Why are we accredited?
- Demonstrates the University’s commitment to a quality animal research program
- Provides a peer review (every 3 years)
- Places the University in good standing with NIH and other granting agencies
- Helps improve our program
- Voluntary
The UNC School of Medicine animal program was accredited in 1973.

The remaining campus animal program merged with the SOM and the entire UNC program was accredited in 1990.
What Are The Site Visitors Looking For?

- A site visit evaluates:
  - Institutional commitment
  - IACUC function
  - Husbandry programs
  - Veterinary care programs
  - Occupational health and safety programs
  - Record keeping
  - Facilities
What Standards Are Used to Evaluate?

- The "Guide"
What Do Site Visitors Do While They Are Here?

- They reviewed the UNC “Program Description” before arriving
- Meet with IO, IACUC, DLAM, EHS, Researchers
- Tour all animal facilities and satellites
- Tour many laboratories where animals are used
- Evaluate supporting documentation of program operation (i.e. records)
What Should I Do To Prepare?

- Continue normal laboratory activities
- Review current protocols
- Contact OACU or DLAM with questions
- Be prepared to answer the following questions CORRECTLY
Likely Questions

- Describe the animal procedures conducted in the lab.
- Are the animal procedures performed in the lab described in the approved protocol?
- Has everyone in the lab read the protocol?
- What kinds of training did you receive regarding the animal procedures you’re conducting (by the PI, IACUC, DLAM)?
Survival Surgery

- Is area dedicated during surgical procedure, free of clutter, and sanitizable?

- Describe aseptic technique (animal prep, surgeon prep, instrument prep – sterile gloves, prep area, surgical area)
Likely Questions

- **Survival Surgery**
  - Analgesic agents?
    - in date & pharmaceutical grade
    - administration schedule & records documenting use
  - Post-operative monitoring
    - animals monitored until awake
    - records documenting monitoring according to approved protocol
Likely Questions

- Surgery – survival and non-survival
  - Are surgery records kept & available for review?
  - Anesthetic agents (in date, pharmaceutical grade, records)?
  - Anesthetic machine (on maintenance program, how is waste gas scavenged, F/Air canisters weighed, high pressure tanks secured)
Likely Questions

- Controlled substances
  - Secured
  - Logs of usage, running balance

- Non-pharmaceutical grade agents
  - Justified and approved in protocol
  - Prepared properly
Likely Questions

- What do you do if you notice a sick animal?
- Do you know how to contact your veterinary technicians and veterinarians?
- Do you have emergency contact information available so that you can be contacted 24/7?
Likely Questions

- **Humane endpoints**
  - What are they?
  - Are they indicated in the approved protocol?
  - Are animals monitored and euthanized according to protocol?
Likely Questions

● Euthanasia
  - How are animals euthanatized?
  - Guillotine - how often is it sharpened?
  - CO2 - how do you ensure death?
  - How is CO2 administered?
  - How are animal carcasses disposed?
Likely Questions

- What is the maximum length of time an animal stays in the lab?
- Is anyone in the lab allergic to animals?
- What does one do if they believe they have an animal allergy?
- Is everyone in the lab who comes in contact with animals enrolled in the occupational health program?
Animal Transport

- How are animals transported to the lab?
- Are animals transported through common corridors/elevators?
- Are cages covered?
- Are private vehicles used?
Likely Questions

- **Animal Concerns**
  - If one had an animal use concern, how would it be reported and to whom?
  - Is there an anonymous method of reporting concerns?
  - Does the university have whistleblower protection for people who report animal concerns?
Likely Questions

- **Satellite Facilities** (PI-maintained housing)
  - Is the use of a satellite justified?
  - Are animals observed and provided husbandry care daily?
  - Are husbandry records kept/available for review?
  - Are DLAM veterinarians contacted if animals exhibit sickness or disease?
  - Are SOPs in place for cleaning facility/equipment?
  - Is there a disaster plan on file and have caretakers read it?
Likely Questions

Only address questions about issues for which you are responsible

- It’s ok to say:
  - ‘I’m not the person who performs that surgery, procedure, euthanasia, monitoring….etc.’
  - ‘I don’t know the answer to that, but I’ll get back to you before the visit is over.’
At the end.....

- Exit briefing
- Site visitor’s assessment
  - Suggestions for improvement
  - Mandatory items
- Institutional written response within 10 business days
- Council deliberation
Outcomes

- Continued full accreditation
- Conditional accreditation
- Deferred accreditation
- Probation
- Revoke