NLAC Seminar – IACUC Information
Tracy Heenan, Director
Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU)

Tuesday, June 9, 2015
Literature Search for Alternatives
ACAP Section 4.1

• Must update literature search for alternatives if protocol has animals in Pain Category D or E
  – USDA covered species before July 23
  – Non-covered species at the time of new or continuation applications
Literature Search for Alternatives

• Updates to section 4.1 ACAP
  – Two databases searched
  – Search conducted within 3 months of application submission and covering period of 5 years
  – Use of animals for training
  – Key words and all potentially painful/distressful procedures
  – Using key words, provide examples of search strategy
ACAP 4.1 Alternatives to Animals Classified in USDA Pain Category D or E
ACAP 4.1 Alternatives to Animals in Pain Category D or E
ACAP Section 4.1
New Personnel Roles in ACAP

• If DLAM personnel will perform your animal work, rather than indicating individual’s name, indicate:

  – DLAM Colony Management Services

  – DLAM Veterinary Services
UNC Public Relations Spokesperson for Animal Related Issues

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Contact Names for Animal Related Questions

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Review of Common/Recent IACUC Non-Compliance

Emily Hearne, Training and Compliance Manager
Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU)

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Overview of Recent Non-Compliance, Deficiencies, Animal Concern Reports

• **Non-Compliance**: Failure to comply w/ IACUC & DLAM policies, approved protocols, federal regulations, or veterinary orders

• **Deficiencies (minor or significant)**: May result from non-compliant activity identified during IACUC inspections of laboratory/DLAM facility

• **Animal Concern Report (ACR)**: A formal IACUC report describing significant/serious deviations from protocol, policy, regulation, or *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* → may be submitted to OLAW/NIH
Euthanasia in Animal Rooms

• The [Rodent Euthanasia Policy](#) states that no euthanasia is permitted in the DLAM facility animal housing rooms.
  – If you have a scientifically justified reason to euthanize animals in the housing room, submit a request for exception to this policy through your ACAP.
  – In extenuating circumstances, euthanasia may be performed in the animal housing rooms with permission from DLAM Veterinary staff.
Unapproved Toe Clipping

• The **IACUC Policy on Rodent Toe Clipping** allows toe clipping only under the following circumstances:
  – Procedure MUST be **scientifically justified** in the approved **protocol**
    • Adequate justification does not include cost, convenience or lack of formal training
  – Toe clips MUST be performed on or **before 10 days** of age
  – IACUC allows toe clips on a maximum of 4 toes per animal and no more than 2 toes per foot
Failure to Use Anesthesia or Analgesia and other Agents According to Approved Protocol

• All drugs must be given exactly as described in the protocol
  – When writing protocols, allow for a range of dosages
  – In cases where a DLAM veterinarian/staff recommends an alternate medication or dosage, amend protocol to describe before using in animals
• Exception: For emergency intervention, DLAM Veterinary Staff recommendation may temporarily override the approved protocol
Secondary Physical Method for Euthanasia

- After CO2, injectable or inhalational drug overdose, or other primary euthanasia method, a secondary physical method to confirm death is **ALWAYS** required:
  - Decapitation
  - Cervical Dislocation
  - Thoracotomy
  - Vital Organ Harvest
Expired Materials used in Animals

• **USDA Policy #3**

• Materials that MUST be used before expiration date:
  – ALL drugs used for anesthesia, analgesia, acute intervention, and euthanasia
  – ALL materials used during survival procedures
    • Eye lubricant, disinfectant solutions, fluids, sutures, sterile gloves, etc.

• Expired drugs and materials must be clearly marked and should be segregated from in-date products to avoid accidental use
Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds (PGCs)

- PGCs are required (if available):
  - for the clinical treatment of animals
  - to prevent or reduce/eliminate animal pain or distress
- PGCs are preferred (if available and suitable):
  - to accomplish scientific aims of the study
- The use of Non-PGCs in laboratory animals must be described and justified in the protocol (ACAP, section 11.3)
  - No PGC equivalent available
  - Study replication
Other Common Non-Compliance

- Protocol Drift: Ensure all new personnel read approved and amended protocols!!
- Humane endpoints not observed
- Surgeries not performed as described
  - Review protocol with each new surgeon and amend as necessary
- Inadequate Aseptic technique
  - Not starting with autoclaved/sterile pack and no re-sterilizing instruments between series of animals
  - Expired products used for survival procedures (suture, betadine)
We are here to help!

• Please feel free to contact our office if you ever need assistance in finding an applicable policy or guideline.

• When in doubt, please ask first!

• If you see something that doesn’t look right, please call us to report it!
  
  – OACU Training and Compliance Team:
    919-966-5569 or iacuc@med.unc.edu