



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

## Types and Frequency of Inspections and Laboratory Visits Conducted by the IACUC

### ➤ Inspections Conducted Semi-Annually

#### DCM ANIMAL HOUSING FACILITIES

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members conduct the federally mandated inspections of all [Division of Comparative Medicine](#) (DCM) maintained animal housing facilities (on and off campus) **every 6 months**. Representatives from DCM and [Environment, Health and Safety](#) (EHS) participate in each inspection. The inspections are organized and led by the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) Training and Compliance Coordinators (TCC).

#### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) LABORATORIES

OACU TCC perform the federally mandated inspections of a PI laboratory every six (6) months when a PI laboratory is approved for time limited housing of animals [i.e., [Animal Procedural Space Exception](#) (APSE)] or when research personnel perform any of the following procedures in the laboratory:

- Surgery (survival or non-survival)
- Aversive Behavioral Studies (or other studies involving pain and distress)
- Studies in Category E Studies
- Burn Studies

The purpose of the PI laboratory inspection is to ensure:

- the laboratory space meets *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* standards for the specific procedure;
- the IACUC has approved the procedures conducted in that location;
- the procedures are conducted as described in the application;
- the individuals conducting the procedure are listed on the approved application.

**Note:** if a core facility performs all of the animal procedures, a semi-annual inspection of the space is not required

## ➤ Inspections Conducted Quarterly

### SATELLITE FACILITIES

The definition of a [Satellite Animal Facility](#) is an approved non-DLAM animal facility in which animals are housed for greater than 12 hours. The facility is maintained by the investigator. Federal regulations state that the authority and oversight of these facilities lies with IACUC.

The purpose of the federally mandated satellite facility inspection is to ensure:

- animals are observed by investigator staff daily;
- husbandry and cleaning duties are performed as specified in standard operating procedures;
- the facility is maintained according to standards in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*;
- the procedures conducted in the satellite are approved and conducted as described in the application;
- the individuals conducting the procedure are listed on the approved application.

In order to ensure compliance with federal and institutional Policies, the TCC conduct these inspections **every 3 months**.

## ➤ Visits Conducted Every Two (2) Years

### INFORMATIONAL VISITS

An Informational visit is conducted by the TCC every two (2) years for an investigator whose personnel perform the following minimally invasive procedures, whether in the laboratory or in an approved DCM procedural space.

- Euthanasia
- Tissue harvest
- Injection(s )
- Non-aversive behavioral studies
- Other minor, non-surgical, non-painful procedures

(Note: if a core facility performs all of the animal procedures, then an informational visit is not required.)

The purpose of the informational visit is primarily to educate the PI and research personnel about IACUC policies and practice. In addition, the following is assessed:

- the particular location is adequate;
- the procedures conducted in that location are approved and conducted as described in the application;
- the individuals conducting the procedure are listed on the approved application.

## ➤ Visits Conducted Every Three (3) Years

### **POST-APPROVAL MONITORING (PAM):**

Federal policy requires institutions to ensure compliance with approved protocols through Post-Approval Monitoring. At UNC this federal mandate is fulfilled through a procedural training and/or observation session conducted by TCC. The laboratory receives a training or observation session every three (3) years for established personnel or when new personnel are added to the application. Individuals conducting the following procedures will be trained and assessed:

- Surgery (survival or non-survival)
- Aversive Behavioral Studies
- Studies involving Pain Category E
- Burn studies

An OACU TCC will meet with the relevant laboratory personnel and review the approved procedure as outlined in the applicable Animal Care Application (ACAP). The TCC will observe the laboratory personnel perform the procedure, evaluating the degree of proficiency and compliance with the approved application. As part of the training exercise, the TCC will discuss best practices and, if necessary, any adjustments to the procedures. TCCs will discuss the need for any application amendments. The laboratory will be responsible for scheduling a follow-up official post approval monitoring visit with TCC once the laboratory has addressed any recommendations and required amendments. If the training results in minimal or no adjustments to the procedure, then the training exercise will fulfill the federal requirement of post-approval monitoring. The TCC will clarify this with laboratory personnel at the end of the visit.

All applicable items from the following list will be discussed and evaluated during the procedural training and/or observation session.

- 1) Surgical area:
  - a) Cleanliness
  - b) Ability to sanitize surfaces
  - c) Separate areas for surgical preparation, recovery, and surgical procedure
  - d) Proper preparation of caging for animal while under an anesthetic
- 2) Adherence to approved procedures:
  - a) Name and purpose of drugs administered
  - b) Dosage and/or volume of drugs administered
  - c) Route of administration
  - d) Frequency of drug administration
  - e) Surgeon understands and confirms appropriate plane of anesthesia
- 3) Surgical preparation of animal:
  - a) Proper eye lubrication
  - b) Adequate removal of hair with appropriate technique
  - c) Application of skin disinfectants with proper technique and supplies

- 4) Surgeon and sterile field preparation:
  - a) Donning of required personal protective equipment
  - b) Adherence to IACUC Guidelines regarding sterilization of instruments and packs
  - c) Comprehension of what objects or materials comprise a sterile field
  - d) \*Proper use and application of sterile gloves (if required)
  - e) Proper techniques for manipulation of non-sterile objects
  - f) \*Application and use of sterile drape
- 5) Evaluation of surgical techniques:
  - a) Proper quantities, selection and use of instrumentation
  - b) Proper use of materials (eg. appropriate suture)
  - c) Proficiency and skill

\*Some microsurgery procedures do not require the donning of sterile gloves or application of sterile drapes. Please contact the OACU to inquire about the specifics of your surgical preparation.