An Overview of the AAALAC International Accreditation Program

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Global Director
The Accreditation Program
Cornerstones

- Voluntary participation
- Peer-review process
- Performance-based
- Completely confidential
- Promotes harmonization
AAALAC International

- Board of Trustees
  - scientific, veterinary medical and patient advocacy organizations
- Council on Accreditation (57)
  - scientists, veterinarians, program administrators
  - from 16 countries
- Ad Hoc Consultants/Specialists (>300)
  - from 28 countries
- AAALAC International Staff
  - offices in United States, Europe and SE Asia
38 Countries/Regions with Accredited Units

- Austria
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- P.R. China/Hong Kong
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Egypt
- England
- Fed. Of St. Kitts & Nevis
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russia
- Scotland
- Singapore
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- U.S.A.
- Vietnam
Percent of Accredited Units (as of May 2014)

- North America: 77%
- Europe: 8%
- Pacific Rim: 13%
- Other: <2%

North America: 77%
The AAALAC Accreditation Program is a Peer Review Process

- Expert to expert
  - open discussion
  - two-way learning process
- Performance/outcome based
- Council deliberations
  - amplify peer review
  - help ensure consistency
- Confidentiality of findings
AAALAC International Assessment Process
Multilayered Review

- by the AAALAC International Council on Accreditation (COA)
- using performance approach

Final Deliberation
External Review
Site Visit
Internal Review
Preparing Program Description (PD)
Accreditation Process

Program Status Evaluation (PSE) – optional

Download Application Package from AAALAC website

Program Description (PD)

Self evaluation

Site visit: COA + ad hoc (a triennial process)

Program Evaluation (PE)

Council Meeting: 3 times per year

Outcome (letter to institution)
The AAALAC Accreditation Standard

- Not a single document
- Encompasses the entire animal program
- Based on internationally recognized standards
  - Most are science-based
Tiers of Assessment Standards

Three Primary Standards

Scientific Literature, Expert Guidance

Regulations, Laws, Policies
Three Primary Standards

ETS 123 - Appendix A (2006)

8th Edition
ILAR Guide
(2011)

3rd Edition
Ag Guide
(2010)
“Performance standard means a standard or guideline that, while describing a desired outcome, provides flexibility in achieving this outcome by granting discretion to those with responsibility for managing the animal care and use program, the researcher, and the IACUC.”
TOP NEWS:

- Thanks to all who attended the AAALAC International conference in Denver! Click here for scenes from a day filled with knowledge and networking...

- Download the AAALAC Podcast on Cage Washer Safety.
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The Program Description addresses the four major components of an animal care and use program:

- institutional policies and responsibilities
- animal environment, housing and management
- veterinary medical care
- and physical plant
Purpose of the Site Visit

- Gain a thorough understanding of the institution’s animal care and use program
Composition of Site Visit Team

- Tailored to the institution
  - Species
  - Type of research
  - Type of institution (academia, CRO, etc.)

- Avoidance of conflict of interest
  - Annual declaration
  - Site visit specific declaration
  - Both real and perceived conflicts are taken into account
A Typical Site Visit Schedule

- Entrance Briefing
  - Program Description Review
    - Facility Tour (meet personnel)
      - Lunch with IACUC
        - Document Review
          - Executive Session
            - Exit Briefing
Council Findings

- **Mandatory finding**
  - A mandatory item is, in Council's judgment, a serious deviation from the recommendations of the Guide and/or other AAALAC International standards that must be corrected to achieve or continue accreditation.

- **Suggestion for improvement**
  - An element of the peer review process designed to assist accredited programs through the sharing of knowledge and experience
  - There is no obligation for institutions to make program changes based on suggestions for improvement
## New Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
<th>Correcting Mandatory Items within (months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Award Full Accreditation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Accreditation with Condition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Correction to be reported in the next Annual Report or at the discretion of Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Provisional Status</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Up to 24 months (by the Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withhold Accreditation</td>
<td>No (appeal opportunity)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Re-Accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
<th>Correct Mandatory Items within (months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continued Full Accreditation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditional Accreditation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Correction to be reported in the next Annual Report or at the discretion of Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Deferred Accreditation            | Yes           | 2 months  
Can lead to Probation                                             |
| Probation                        | Yes           | Up to 12 months (by the Council)  
Can lead to Revoke                                                   |
| Revoke Accreditation              | No            | N/A                                                            |

(appeal opportunity)
Approximately 97% of institutions are in a Full Accreditation status
Percent Site Visits by Geographic Regions
Program Components
Percent of SFI and Mandatory Items by Geographical Regions
Program Components Percent SFIs by Geographical Region

- Animal Environment
- Occupational Health & Safety
- IACUC/OB
- Veterinary Medical Care
- Physical Plant
- Institution/Administrative

Geographical Regions:
- North America
- Pacific Rim
- Europe
- Other
Benefits of Accreditation

- Concentrates on promoting continuous improvement to a global benchmark
- Performance–based (focuses on outcome measures to determine performance)
- Represents a level of quality consistent with global standards
- Recognized by funding sources and research partners
  - AAALAC is the **ONLY** animal care and use accrediting body that is worldwide
Benefits of Accreditation

- Promotes scientific validity for publication in international high-impact journals
  - Minimizes experimental variability
  - Promotes reproducible quality data
- Fosters inter-institutional collaboration
- Keeps institutions knowledgeable and in step with global best practices
- Promotes high standards and helps to raise the global benchmark for animal well-being in science
- Provides the public and other stakeholders with a positive image
The Value of Accreditation?

- Findings corrected by PSVC: 87.6%
- Findings retained in the letter: 12.4%
Thank You!

QUESTIONS?
AAALAC Expectations for Veterinary Care and IACUC Oversight

AAALACの期待

Tsutumu Miki Kurosawa, D.V.M., DJCLAM
Council Member
AAALAC International
Contents of ILAR Guide

ILARの指針の目次

• 第1章 基本的考え方
• 第2章 動物のケアと使用に関する活動計画
  ▪ 活動計画の運用
    ▪ 活動計画の運用責任者
      ▪ 選任獣医師
      ▪ 動物実験委員会
  ▪ 活動計画の監督
    ▪ 動物実験委員会の役割
• 第3章 環境、住居とその運用
• 第4章 獣医学的ケア
• 第5章 施設
Veterinary Care
獣医学的ケア

- 動物の導入と輸送
- 予防医学
- 臨床的ケアと運用
- 外科手術
- 苦痛（痛みと苦悩）
- 麻酔と鎮痛
- 安楽死
What does AAALAC expect for veterinary care?

AAALACの獣医学的ケアへの期待とわが国の現実

- 獣医学的ケアは動物のケアと使用に関する活動計画（プログラム）の要である。
- 獣医学的ケアは獣医師が動物実験を管理することではない。動物をケアすることである。
- 我が国の法令指針には獣医学的ケアは全く記載されていない。
Attending Veterinarian (AV)’s Responsibility 選任獣医師の責任

- AV is responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at the institution, monitoring and promoting animal well-being at all times.
- AV must have sufficient authority: access to all animals and resources to manage the veterinary care program.
- AV should oversee other aspects of animal care and use (husbandry, housing) to ensure compliance with the Guide.

Well-being is determined by considering physical, physiologic and behavioral indicators.
“Qualified” AV  
資格のある選任獣医師

- “A Veterinary Care Program” is the responsibility of the AV either **certified** (by ACLAM, ECLAM, JCLAM, KLAM) or with training and experience in laboratory animals science and medicine or in the use of the species at the institution.

Some aspects of the veterinary care program can be conducted by persons other than a veterinarian, but a mechanism for a direct and frequent communication. ......
IO-AV-IACUC Communication
責任者、選任獣医師、委員会の連絡

- Chapter 2, Page 13
- Program needs should be clearly and regularly communicated to the IO by the AV, the IACUC, and others associated with the Program.
The Guide endorses “Guidelines for Adequate Veterinary Care” (ACLAM, 1996*)
指針はACLAMの適切な獣医学的ケア指針を裏書きしている

*http://www.aclam.org/Content/files/files/Public/Active/position_adeqvetcare.pdf

The professional judgment of a trained and experienced veterinarian is essential in the application of these guidelines to specific institutional settings.
Primary Areas of AV’s Responsibilities

(ACLAM, 1996*)

1. A. Disease Detection and Surveillance, Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Resolution
2. Handling and Restraint; Anesthetics, Analgesics and Tranquilizer Drugs; and Methods of Euthanasia
3. Surgical and Postsurgical Care
4. Animal Well-Being
5. Appropriate Use of Animals in Research and Testing

*http://www.aclam.org/Content/files/files/Public/Active/position_adeqvetcare.pdf
Role of Attending Veterinarian
選任獣医師の役割

- 實験実施者と動物ケア従事者の適切な指導
  - 飼養
  - 取扱い
  - 医療
  - 不動化
  - 鎮静
  - 鎮痛
  - 麻酔
  - 安楽死
- 外科手術プログラムの監督指導
- 周術期ケアの監督指導
Essential Protocol Topics

AV’s roles in Protocol Review

枢要な計画書項目

選任獣医師の計画書審査の役

- Rationale & purpose of the use of animals
- Sequential procedures
- Alternative availability
- Justification of animal species and numbers (and experimental group sizes)
- Adequacy of Personnel training and experience, role and responsibilities….
- Nonstandard housing and husbandry requirements
- Impact of the procedures on the animals’ well-being
Essential Protocol Topics

AV’s roles in Protocol Review

枢要な計画書項目

選任獣医師の計画書審査の役割

- Appropriate sedation, analgesia, and anesthesia
- Unnecessary duplication of experiments
- Conduct of surgeries
- Description and rationale for anticipated endpoints
- Early endpoint criteria for euthanasia
- Postoperative care and observation
- Method of euthanasia and plan for care of long-lived species
- Use of hazardous materials and provision of safe working environment
New “MUSTs” ; Animal Well-being
新しい“ねばならない” ; 動物の安寧

- Page 5: Veterinary consultation must occur when pain or distress is beyond the level anticipated in the protocol....

- Page 27: The identification of humane endpoints...multiple factors must be weighed, including the model, species....

- Page 35: Facilities must have a disaster plan. Animals that cannot be recovered must be humanely euthanized.
Animal Biosecurity Program
動物のバイオセキュリティ計画

- All measures taken to identify, contain, prevent, and eradicate known or unknown infections that may cause clinical disease or alter physiologic and behavioral response or otherwise make animals unsuitable for research.
  - Limit exposure by physical plant
  - Separation of equipment and staff
  - Procedures and practices
  - Selecting suppliers
  - Pest control program
Health Surveillance

- Minimum of daily observations
- More frequent if warranted
  - Postoperative recovery
  - Illness
  - Protocol associated conditions
- Personnel must be trained
  - To recognize clinical signs
  - Should be species specific
All animals should be observed for signs of illness, injury, or abnormal behavior by a person trained to recognize such signs. As a rule, this should occur **daily**...more frequently might be warranted.
Clinical Care and Management
臨床的ケアと運用

- 臨床的ケアの実施における獣医師の人数
- 獣医師よる動物種の熟知、使用内容の熟知、診療記録、実験操作記録の閲覧
- 診療
  - 動物の健康に関する関係者の情報交換
  - 客観的な動物観察
  - 観察点の注意事項の優先順位
  - 適切な順番での処置
  - 獣医師研究者の協議
  - 標準手順書の作成
  - 動物実験委員会との事前の打ち合わせ
Clinical Care and Management
臨床的ケアと運用

- 緊急時のケア
  - 時間外での対応体制策定
  - 診断、評価、治療、原因究明、安楽死のための常時待機
  - 上級管理者、動物実験委員会から付託された、治療、動物の除外、苦痛の排除、安楽死の権限の行使

- 記録管理
  - 診療録
  - 使用記録
  - 医薬品の管理と記録
Antinociception occurs at a surgical plane of anesthesia, and prior to surgery, adequate antinociception must be ascertained.
Pain and Distress
苦痛

- 獣医学的ケアの最大の要素は外科手術計画に伴う疼痛の予防と軽減
- 疼痛は緊張要因（ストレスサー）である
- 適切な麻酔薬と鎮痛薬の使用は倫理的、科学的に必須のものである
- 苦痛に伴う臨床症状の認知能力が重要
- 動物種特有の行動学的徴候は苦痛の指標
- この苦痛の指標を獣医師は担当者に教育
- 苦悩（Distress）は緊張要因（stressor）に協調、調整ができなくなった状態
The use of alcohol as a skin disinfectant for rodent survival surgery is acceptable, but the blanket use of alcohol for surgical instrument preparation was not acceptable.

The IACUC must evaluate the use of alcohol on a case-by-case basis with due consideration for animal welfare and scientific outcomes based on a review of current relevant literature, and consistent with expected surgical outcomes.

See AAALAC’s guidance on the use of alcohol as a skin disinfectant and for instrument sterilization (http://www.aaalac.org/publications/Connection/Using_Alcohol_Disinfectant.pdf)
Intra-operative Monitoring
術中モニタリング

- The level and detail required for intra-operative monitoring and recordkeeping can vary with the species, invasiveness and complexity of the surgical procedure, duration of surgery and other factors, such as anesthetic regimen and the use of neuromuscular blockade, the potential for pain or distress, procedural complexity, duration, or likelihood of an unsuccessful outcome.

- The Council will evaluate the adequacy of intra-operative monitoring using a performance based approach which assesses whether procedures meet the goals and provide a successful outcome.
Surgery in Investigator Laboratories

- ILAR Guide p.144
- “For most survival surgery performed on rodents and other small species such as aquatics and birds, an animal procedure laboratory, dedicated to surgery and related activities when used for this purpose and managed to minimize contamination from other activities conducted within the room at other times, is recommended.”

AAALAC’s expectation

- The surgical area should be dedicated for that purpose while surgery is performed.
- For complex or long procedures, or if the layout of the laboratory does not permit a suitable dedicated surgical space, it may be advisable to temporarily stop other laboratory activities, thereby dedicating the laboratory to surgery in order to maximize the potential for a good surgical outcome.

The investigator, IACUC and veterinarian should evaluate surgical areas to ensure they are appropriate.
Euthanasia

- Conforms to the AVMA Guidelines
- Exceptions approved by IACUC
- Avoids distress
- Only performed by skilled personnel
- Confirmation of death
- Human psychological considerations
Technique Categories

Acceptable

Acceptable with conditions

- Acceptable’ and ‘acceptable with conditions’ techniques are to be considered equally satisfactory so long as the stated conditions are met.

Unacceptable

Acceptable – Acceptable with Conditions – Unacceptable
It is imperative that the death of the animal be verified after euthanasia and before disposal.

As a general rule, a gentle death that takes longer is preferable to a rapid, but more distressing death.

- Death must be confirmed by personnel trained to recognize cessation of vital signs in the species being euthanized.
- Standardized methods of euthanasia that are predictable and controllable should be developed and approved by the AV and IACUC
C0₂ - Acceptable with Conditions for Small Rodents
酸化炭素は小ゲッシ動物で条件付きで容認

Conditions (Pages 49, 100):

- Must be supplied from a commercially supplied from a cylinder or tank.
- An appropriate pressure-reducing regulator and flow meter must be used.
- An optimal flow rate for C0₂ euthanasia system should displace 10-30% of the chamber volume/min.

Notes (Page 49)

- Prefilled chambers is unacceptable.
- Oxygen administered together with C0₂ is not recommended.
- If euthanasia cannot be conducted in the home cage, chambers should be emptied and cleaned between uses.
Difference
AAALACの期待とわが国の現状の齟齬

- 動物実験委員会が計画書を承認（機関の長）
- 動物実験委員会は計画書審査だけでなく全般的なプログラムに対して責任がある
- 獣医学的ケアが実験動物ケアと使用の要
- 選任獣医師としての実験動物医学専門医
- 選任獣医師の権限と責任
- 適切性の詳細説明
- ILARの指針に従う
Thank You!

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www.aaalac.org
Other Highlights from the 2011 Guide

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Senior Director for Southeast Asia
AAALAC International
AAALAC International's Three Primary Standards

Accreditation assessments will be based on three primary standards:

- The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide), NRC 2011
- The Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide), FASS 2010
- The European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes, Council of Europe (ETS 123)

AAALAC encourages institutions to make animal care and use determinations based on regulatory and funding requirements, overlaid with a performance approach that enhances animal welfare and quality science.
What are the changes?

- Chapter 1 Key Concept
- Chapter 2 Animal Care and Use Program
- Chapter 3 Environmental, Housing, and Management
- Chapter 4 Veterinary Care
- Chapter 5 Physical Plant
22 New “Must”s

- Veterinary Care and Animal Well-being – 16
  - Regulatory and Policy Requirements – 5
    - Safety – 1
Environmental, Housing, and Management

New Section: Aquatic Animals
Physical Plants

New Sections

- Vibration Control
- Barrier Facilities
- Imaging
- Behavioral Studies
- Aquatics Species Housing
- ........
7 New or Revised Position Statements

- Definition of “Laboratory Animals”  
  - Revised
- The Attending Veterinarian and Veterinary Care  
  - Revised
- Cage or Pen Space  
  - New
- Social housing  
  - New
- Selecting the Appropriate Standard(s) for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals  
  - New
- Safety Requirements for Walk-In Cage/Rack Washers and Bulk Sterilizers  
  - New

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/positionstatements.cfm
AAALAC International’s three primary standards
AAALAC International’s application of performance standards
Allergy prevention
Frequency of program review and facility inspection
Harm-benefit analysis
Post-approval monitoring
Reporting animal welfare concerns
Surgery in investigator laboratories
Trio breeding
Chick and piglet environment temperature
Environmental enrichment
Cage sanitation Frequency

Aseptic surgery and alcohol as a disinfectant
Intraoperative monitoring
Hospital stops
Humidity control
Recycled air
Vibration detection and suppression
Windows in animal rooms
Non-pharmaceutical-grade compounds
Social housing & social experience
“Should” vs. “Must”
Client-owned animals in veterinary colleges
Frequency of monitoring rodent traps
Instructional Signage for Cage/Rack Washers and Bulk Autoclaves

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Steps to Earning Accreditation
Apply for Accreditation
Fees and Deadlines
The Program Description
AAALAC’s Three Primary Standards
Reference Resources
Rules of Accreditation
Download the new Guide
Benefits of Accreditation
Categories of Accreditation

Position Statements
Bylaws
Policies

• Thanks to all who attended the AAALAC International conference in Denver! Click here for scenes from a day filled with knowledge and networking...
• Download the AAALAC Podcast on Cage Washer Safety.
Must, Should, and May (Page 8)

- **Must**: imperative and mandatory duty or requirement for providing humane animal care and use.
- **Should**: a strong recommendation for achieving a goal.
- **May**: a suggestion to be considered.

Page 11: The proper care and use of laboratory animals in research, testing, teaching, and production require scientific and professional judgment based on the animals’ needs and their intended use.
Practice standard means the application of professional judgment by qualified, experienced individuals to a task or process over time, which has been demonstrated to benefit or enhance animal care and use. Much of the basis for professional judgment comes from information obtained from the peer-reviewed scientific literature and textbooks.
Engineering Standards

- Page 44: Recommended temperatures, \textbf{Table 3.1}
- Page 44: Recommended humidity (RH): 30-70%
- Page 46: Acceptable air changes per hour in animal room: \textbf{10 - 15}
- Page 49: Illumination: 130 – 325 lux about 1 meter above the floor
- Page 49: Noise : \textless 85 dB
- Pages 57 – 63: \textbf{Table 3.2 – 6} Recommended minimum space for animals
- Page 66: Food storage: \textless 21°C, \textless 50% RH, 3 or 6 months shelf-life
- Page 70: Solid-bottom caging, bottles, sipper tubes sanitation (weekly), cage tops sanitation (at least once every two weeks)
- Page 71: Effective disinfection temperature : \textgreater等于 82.2 °C (180 °F)
- Page 139: HVAC adjustment capability: ±1°C (±2 °F), 30 – 70% RH
- Page 142: Animal carcass and waste storage temp: \textless 7°C
IACUC Membership
Minimum of 4 members

1. A certified DVM or person with training and experience in laboratory animal science and medicine or in the use of the species…

2. At least one practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals

3. At least one nonscientist (inside or outside the institution)

4. At least one public member (nonaffiliated and should not be laboratory animal users)
Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns

- The institution must develop methods for reporting and investigating animal welfare concerns
- Employees should be aware of the importance of and mechanisms for reporting animal welfare concerns
- Reported concerns and any corrective actions taken should be documented
- Mechanisms for reporting concerns should be posted in prominent locations in the facility and on applicable institutional website
- Multiple points of contact are recommended
- The process should include a mechanism for anonymity

AAALAC’s Expectation

- The reports will be investigated by IACUC and any necessary corrective actions will be taken.
- AAALAC International should be informed of the results of the investigation and any subsequent corrective measures.
Program Review and Facility Inspection

At least **annually** or more often as required

- National or regional regulations, policies and guidelines, as well as conditions of funding, may set a minimum frequency for such reviews, of greater importance to AAALAC.

- AAALAC International encourages Committees to carefully consider the frequency of their evaluations in order to ensure quality animal care and science.

- In certain programs and circumstances, self-assessments at frequencies greater than minimally required may be prudent.

See FAQ: [http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm](http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm)
Protocol Preparation and Protocol Review Topics
Pages 25-26 (new areas)

- Rationale & purpose of the use of animals
- Sequential procedures
- Alternative availability
- Justification of animal species and numbers (and experimental group sizes)
- Adequacy of personnel training and experience, role and responsibilities...
- Nonstandard housing and husbandry requirements
- Impact of the procedures on the animals’ well-being

- Appropriate sedation, analgesia, and anesthesia
- Unnecessary duplication of experiments
- Conduct of surgeries
- Description and rationale for anticipated endpoints
- Early endpoint criteria for euthanasia
- Postoperative care and observation
- Method of euthanasia and plan for care of long-lived species
- Use of hazardous materials and provision of safe working environment
Harm-Benefit Analysis

- The Committee is obliged to weigh study objectives against animal welfare concerns in accordance with the tenets of the Three R’s.

- AAALAC International expects that IACUC’s will weigh the potential adverse effects of the study against the potential benefits that are likely to accrue as a result of the research.

- This analysis should be performed prior to the final approval of the protocol, and should be a primary consideration in the review process.

- For studies potentially involving unrelieved pain and distress, the AAALAC International site visitors will assess whether the Committee has conducted this analysis.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Special Considerations for IACUC Review
Pages 27 – 33 (new areas)

- Experimental and Humane Endpoints
- Unexpected Outcome
- Physical Restraint
- Multiple Survival Surgical Procedures
- Food and Fluid Regulation
- Use of Non-Pharmaceutical-Grade Chemicals and Other Substances
- Agricultural Animals
Use of Non-Pharmaceutical-Grade Chemicals and other Substances

- should be described and justified in the animal use protocol and be approved by the IACUC
- consideration should be given to the grade, purity, sterility, pH, pyrogenicity, ..., and animal welfare and scientific issues relating to its use

AAALAC’s expectation

- Whenever possible, pharmaceutical grade drugs must be used for clinical purposes
- If available and suitable, pharmaceutical grade compounds are preferred for experimental purposes
- Several factors should be considered by the IACUC when the use of non-pharmaceutical-grade compounds is proposed for a study.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM)
Pages 33-34

- **Methods:**
  - Continuing protocol review: annual update or review
  - Laboratory inspection
  - Veterinary or IACUC observation of selected procedures
  - Observation of animals by animal care, veterinary and IACUC
  - External inspections and assessment

AAALAC expect that there will be a system for ensuring animal procedures conform with the approved protocol.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Humidity control

- Humidity should be controllable within a range of 30-70% throughout the year.

AAALAC’s expectation

- AAALAC International would assess the variation around the set point from a performance approach.

If no issues were identified by the institution or the AAALAC site visit team that would compromise the health and well-being of the animals or jeopardize the integrity of animal studies, then it is not likely that the Council on Accreditation would consider this variation a problem.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Recycled Air

- AAALAC International has determined that the discussion in the 2011 Guide regarding recycling air should be augmented with several points noted in the 1996 Guide.
  - The use of non-recycled air is preferred for ventilation of animal use and holding areas.
  - If recycled air is used, the exhaust air should be HEPA-filtered (high efficiency particulate air-filtered) to remove airborne particles before it is recycled; the extent and efficiency of filtration should be proportional to the estimated risk……
  - The supply air should not exceed 50% recycled air and recycled air should be returned only to the room or area from which it was generated, except if it comes from other than animal housing areas and the source of the air poses no concerns for animal health.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
The 2011 Guide states that the recommended minimum cage height for rabbits is 16” (40.5 cm).

The Guide states that animals must have enough space to express their natural postures and postural adjustments without touching enclosure walls or ceiling.

AAALAC site visitors consider the health, welfare and species-typical behavior of the animal than small differences in cage height or size.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
AAALAC's Position Statement

- AAALAC International expects accredited institutions to comply with all national or regional regulations, policies and guidelines...

- In those countries where regulations do not exist, institutions should consider the ILAR Guide’s space recommendations as a basis while recognizing that performance standards also must be met.

- The performance criteria …are used by AAALAC in assessing the adequacy of cage or pen space available to the animal(s).

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/positionstatements.cfm
Trio Breeding

- The Guide now states that 51 in² (330 cm²) are recommended for a dam with a litter.
- ETS 123 also states that 51 in² (330 cm²) is acceptable for a monogamous pair (outbred/inbred) or a trio (inbred).

AAALAC’s expectation

- Performance based criteria for establishing and evaluating cage densities will continue to be considered paramount to determinations of appropriate cage size.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Environmental Enrichment

AAALAC’s expectation

- Environmental enrichment should be provided in a consistent manner across the animal program, with due attention to personnel and animal safety.
- Program is implemented properly by adequate training of personnel.
- Personnel responsible for daily care should be adequately familiar with normal animal behavior such that abnormal behavior may be recognized and reported.

AAALAC expects that the enrichment program will be reviewed regularly by the IACUC, and that the IACUC adequately represents the research community and veterinarian(s) at the institution in the review of enrichment program.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Social Housing
AAALAC’s Position Statement

- **Social housing will be the default method of housing** unless otherwise justified based on social incompatibility resulting from inappropriate behavior, veterinary concerns regarding animal well-being, or scientific necessity approved by the IACUC.

- When necessary, **single housing of social animals should be limited to the minimum period necessary**, and where possible, visual, auditory, olfactory and, depending on the species, protected tactile contact with compatible conspecifics should be provided.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/positionstatements.cfm
Social Housing

AAALAC’s Expectation

- In the absence of other animals, additional enrichment should be offered, such as safe and positive interaction with the animal care staff, as appropriate to the species of concern; periodic release into larger enclosures; supplemental enrichment items; and/or the addition of a companion animal in the room or housing area.

- The institution’s policy and exceptions for single housing should be reviewed on a regular basis and approved by the IACUC and/or veterinarian.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/positionstatements.cfm
Social Housing & Social Experience

- When pair or group housing is not possible because of social incompatibility, veterinary concerns or scientific necessity, AAALAC recognizes that there is a spectrum of possible degrees of social experience that can be made available to an animal based on the species, health, and use of the animal.

- Examples include continuous access to full contact with conspecifics; part time access (e.g., overnight, when the animal is between studies, defined periods of time during the day, etc.) to full contact with conspecifics; and protected contact that allows interaction through a mesh panel, grooming bars or other type of perforated barrier on either a part or full time basis.

http://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/faq_landing.cfm
Thank You!

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