



Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
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Welcome!

Dear Campus Animal Users,

Welcome back to another academic year! As the Fall 2013 semester gets under way, we have several updates to provide regarding animal use on campus.

First, the new vivarium in the Li Ka Shing (LKS) Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences opened in June. The vivarium includes a new in vivo imaging facility for longitudinal studies that will be open to all campus investigators and their labs. The imaging facility currently houses equipment moved from NAF but several new imaging modalities, including rodent MRI, are being installed in LKS. Future plans include additional equipment such as CT scanners.

Second, medical screening and immunizations required as a part of the Animal Occupational Health & Safety Program (AOHSP) will now be provided at no cost to departments or PIs. This is the result of a new funding model that was recently endorsed by the campus and Office of the President. For questions regarding the AOHSP, please contact the campus Occupational Health Clinic (University Health Services Tang Center) at 510-642-6891.

Third, the USDA conducted its annual site visit in February and our campus animal program received a clean bill of health. Kudos to OLAC, OACU, and you for making this possible!

Finally, the issue of successful mouse breeding (both too much and too little) was the major topic for discussion at a recent Mouse Users Group (MUG) meeting. This is a complicated issue and this newsletter contains detailed information on facilities issues and upgrades, options offered by OLAC to facilitate mouse breeding, and veterinary resources and guidance on factors affecting mouse breeding.

Best regards,

Bill Sha
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Vice Chair

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Mouse Breeding and Husbandry

OLAC fields many questions on how to improve mouse breeding programs through colony management and husbandry strategies. In response to these questions, OLAC has compiled guidelines that include best practices and industry standards on how to optimize mouse breeding programs. The new “Best Practices for Optimizing Mouse Breeding Programs” is posted on the OACU web site at <http://acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html>. For further questions, please contact OLAC at 510-642-9232.

Mouse Bio-barrier Facility

With the financial support of the Vice Chancellor for Research, the Dean of Biological Sciences, the Dean of the College for Natural Resources, and the Dean of Molecular & Cellular Biology, planning is underway to construct a mouse barrier facility on campus. This barrier will be installed in LSA-6, and will initially convert 3 suites in that facility to barrier housing. Historically barrier facilities have been considered essential for those working in immunology and infectious disease. With the recent evidence that the mammalian microbiome may alter many aspects of physiology, reproduction, and behavior, ability to more closely control rodent flora is becoming critical to many fields of research. We extend a note of thanks all the deans and VCR for funding this important project!

AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition

The AVMA issued and posted an update to the 2007 Guidelines on Euthanasia with a new title, AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition available at <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf> (PDF). The PHS Policy requires that euthanasia be conducted according to the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

After September 1, 2013, the Vertebrate Animal Section (VAS) of grants and contracts **must** be consistent with the 2013 Guidelines. In their submission to NIH, grant applicants and contract offerors are required to describe any method of euthanasia to be used and the reasons for its selection and to state whether the method proposed is consistent with the 2013 AVMA Guidelines. If the proposed method is not consistent with the AVMA Guidelines, a scientific justification must be included in the VAS.

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A Guide to the Behavior and Enrichment of Laboratory Rodents

A Guide to the Behavior & Enrichment of Laboratory Rodents is now available from Charles River. This is a resource for those looking to implement or enhance an existing behavioral husbandry and enrichment program. Learn more at http://www.criver.com/en-US/NewsEvents/WhatsNew/Pages/Guide_Behavior_Enrichment_Laboratory_Rodents.aspx.

Contingency Plans – New USDA Requirements

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA.
[9 CFR Parts 2 and 3 \[Docket No. APHIS-2006-0159\]](#)

SUMMARY: APHIS published a final rule requiring all dealers, exhibitors, intermediate handlers, carriers, research facilities and other entities regulated by the Agency under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to take additional steps to be better prepared for potential disaster situations. They are required to develop a plan for how they are going to respond to and recover from emergencies most likely to happen to their facility, as well as train their employees on those plans. These emergency plans are also referred to as “contingency plans.” Developing contingency plans could potentially save the lives of their animals - and their employees - during an emergency or natural disaster.

UC Berkeley, in consultation with OLAC, ACUC and EH7s, developed the required contingency plan that is congruent with the existing “UC Ready” Continuity Plan. However, **Effective July 31, 2013, the USDA issued a stay of the Contingency Plan regulation in order to give the agency additional time to determine the best course of action. The stay will remain in place until the best course of action is determined and will apply to all regulated entities.**

Contingency plans are also required by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). Emergency plans for OLAC animal facilities are posted on the OLAC web site, <http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/olac/safety.html>.

Researchers are encouraged to develop contingency plans for protecting critical research resources, including the use of cryopreservation for valuable stock/strains of rodents. For additional information, please contact OLAC at 510-642-9232.

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Implementation of the Revised International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals

The Public Health Service (PHS) recently provided guidance awardee institutions on implementation of the revised International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals (Guiding Principles) of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS).

The PHS Policy requires that institutions have an approved Animal Welfare Assurance before conducting activities involving live vertebrate animals. **Institutions outside the U.S. that receive PHS funding are required to have a [Foreign Assurance](#) that commits the institution to follow the Guiding Principles.**

The revised Guiding Principles are available for download at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guiding_Principles_2012.pdf (PDF). PHS-Assured institutions outside the U.S. are encouraged to adopt the revised Guiding Principles as soon as possible, and **full implementation is expected after October 1, 2013**. OLAW will confirm an institution's adoption of the Guiding Principles at the next renewal of the Foreign Assurance.

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