



Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
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February 1: A Big Day for UCB's Animal Care & Use Program

New AV & OLAC Director Starts

As many of you know, a successful nation-wide search has led to the selection of a new Attending Veterinarian (AV) and Director of the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC), Dr. Greg Lawson, who starts on February 1st. As we look forward to welcoming Greg to UC Berkeley, we also want to express our gratitude to Dr. Cliff Roberts, who stepped in to provide support and leadership as Interim AV and OLAC Director during the summer and fall of 2015.

AAALAC is Coming!

Our accreditation site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) is scheduled for February 1-3, 2016. AAALAC visits the campus every three years for a comprehensive evaluation of the animal care and use program; this visit is critical to maintaining our accreditation by AAALAC as an outstanding animal care program. Currently, ACUC and OLAC are working with PI's to prepare for this visit. Please see the [AAALAC Preparation: Lab Self-Assessment Checklist](#) on page 4 to ensure that you and your lab are ready for the visit.

Kind regards,

Bill Sha
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Vice Chair

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AAALAC Site Visit Scheduled for February 1-3, 2016

As noted above, our AAALAC site visit will occur **February 1-3, 2016**.

In addition to reviewing a written program description and supporting documents, the site visit team will tour areas where animals are housed and used on the UC Berkeley campus, including both OLAC vivarium and investigator lab space. At this time, we don't have a final schedule for their visit, which is at the discretion of the site visit team.

If you have questions, please contact the OACU at 642-8855 or acuc@berkeley.edu.

New AV & OLAC Director Starts February 1, 2016

To keep things interesting, Dr. Greg Lawson, our newly appointed AV, will begin his position at Berkeley on 1 February, just in time to participate in the AAALAC visit.

Dr. Lawson is the current Acting Director of UCLA's Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM). Greg received his PhD in veterinary medicine in 2000 from UC Davis. He is a professionally licensed veterinarian certified with the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) and USDA Accredited. Greg has been the Executive Associate Director of UCLA's Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM) for the past 16 years. Among the assets Greg brings to OLAC is particular expertise in designing pathogen free facilities and clinical diagnostic laboratories.

Greg's appointment follows an intensive search process led by a 10-person search committee that was chaired by David Raulet and included 7 faculty researchers who use animals, a campus veterinarian, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Administration and Compliance, and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research. We have been very fortunate that Cliff Roberts agreed to serve as Interim AV & Director of OLAC while we searched for a permanent Director. At Greg's request, Cliff has graciously agreed to stay on at OLAC in an advisory capacity through June 2016, while Greg transitions to Berkeley.

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Updates to ACUC Policies & Guidelines

The ACUC has recently updated several Policies and Guidelines. To read or download copies of these and all ACUC Policies and Guidelines, visit the [ACUC web site](http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html) (<http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html>).

- The [Policy and Procedures on Protocol Review](#) was updated to streamline review of amendments involving personnel updates, additions of new strains, and deletion of species or procedures.
- [Guidelines for Anesthesia and Analgesia in Laboratory Animals](#) now include additional requirements for training and intra- and post-operative monitoring
- [Guidelines for Surgical Procedures](#) provide additional details regarding preparation of patients, surgeons, and instruments for both survival and non-survival procedures. Additional requirements for post-operative care and monitoring are also outlined.
- [Recordkeeping Guidelines for Surgical Procedures on Laboratory Animals](#) now include additional templates that can be used to record intra-operative monitoring.
- [Euthanasia Guidelines](#) have updated requirements for both chemical and physical methods of euthanasia.
- [Guillotine Use and Maintenance](#) has additional requirements for personnel training and maintenance of equipment.

Options for Investigators Managing Breeding Colonies

The OLAC veterinary staff would like to remind investigators who manage breeding colonies that surplus animals that are not able to be used in research can be donated to OLAC for use in training workshops or, in some cases, used by other investigators. Please contact the OLAC vet staff at vetstaff@lists.berkeley.edu if you would like additional information.

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AAALAC Preparation: Lab Self-Assessment Checklist

Animal Use Protocol

- A copy of the currently approved protocol is available to all lab personnel (paper or electronic).
- All personnel working with animals are listed on an approved protocol.
- All animal procedures that are currently being performed are listed on an approved protocol and are performed as described in the protocol.
- All compounds (e.g., test compounds, anesthetics, analgesics, etc.) used in animals are described in the currently approved protocol.
- All personnel working with animals are familiar with the procedures described in the protocol, and understand that only procedures listed in the protocol can be performed.
- All locations where animal procedures are performed are listed on the currently approved protocol.

Documentation of Training

- All personnel are aware of the [training requirements and opportunities](#) for animal users.
- Any training provided by lab personnel is documented and those documents are available to site visitors.
- All personnel are up to date on their CITI on-line training: initial plus 5 year renewal.
- All personnel that are performing euthanasia, anesthesia, or surgery have been certified by OLAC and documentation of certification (email) is available to site visitors.

Occupational Health & Safety

- All personnel are aware of the [Animal Occupational Health & Safety Program](#), and understand the health risks associated with their exposure to animals in a research or teaching setting.
- All personnel are up to date on their Animal Exposure Questionnaire (AEQ).
- Anesthetic gases are properly scavenged.

Applicable ACUC Guidelines

- All personnel are aware of and familiar with [ACUC guidelines](#) that apply to the procedures they are performing.

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AAALAC Self-Assessment Checklist (continued)

Procedures and Procedure Space

- Locations where animal procedures are performed are clean, free of clutter, and only contain items that are sanitizable.
- All drugs, sutures, and dated medical supplies are within their expiration date.
- All controlled substances are stored and their use documented in accordance with [EH&S policy](#). Controlled substance use logs are available to site visitors.
- Surgical monitoring records and anesthetic records are maintained in accordance with [ACUC policy](#) and are available to site visitors.
- Written records are maintained for all administration of analgesia, with the dosage and frequency described in the currently approved protocol.

Animal Housing Areas

- Breeding colonies are maintained according to [ACUC Guidelines](#), which includes assuring that cage housing density does not exceed recommendations (i.e., no overcrowded cages).
- All cage cards contain the required information per [ACUC Guidelines](#): PI's name, department, and lab contact person, as well as protocol ID #; Cage identification number; species and/or strain; sex and number of adults per cage; birth dates (or dates of arrival) of adults; birth dates and wean dates of litters; source (name of vendor or "colony born")