



# Berkeley Animal Care News

October 2012  
Volume 1  
Special Edition

Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)  
[acuc@berkeley.edu](mailto:acuc@berkeley.edu)

(510) 642 - 8855  
[www.acuc.berkeley.edu](http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Countdown to AAALAC Site Visit!
- 2 Facility Site Visits  
Potential Questions
- 3 AAALAC Record Review  
Occupational Health and Safety is Important!

## RESOURCES

- 1 Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)  
<http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/>
- 2 Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU)  
<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/>
- 3 Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC)  
<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/>

## Countdown to AAALAC Site Visit!

UC Berkeley has been accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) since 1994. At our last visit in October 2009, we received an exemplary commendation for our animal care and use program. We'd really like to repeat this feat!

To do so, we need your help to prepare for their visit on October 15 - 16, 2012! This *special edition* of our newsletter outlines what you can expect as the visitors tour our facilities. *In particular, AAALAC has requested to visit all labs doing animal research that is funded by NIH.*

Because we do not know their exact itinerary, we encourage you to continue your research and teaching activities as you normally would. We will attempt to minimize any disruptions; however, the site visitors plan on touring most, if not all, of our animal spaces so don't be surprised if we show up at your door!

We are very proud of our program and hope you will join us in showing AAALAC how good it is!

Sincerely,

Bill Sha  
ACUC Chair

Roger Van Andel  
Attending Veterinarian  
OLAC Director



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## Facility Site Visits

To the best of our knowledge, the site visitors plan to tour at least the following areas:

- Pls funded by NIH
- Locations of all USDA regulated species (cats, rabbits, tuco-tucos, etc.)
- Labs engaged in behavioral studies or physiological testing
- Labs engaged in survival surgeries or other significant procedures
- The Field Station, and
- All animal housing and animal care facilities (time permitting)

## Potential Questions

If we visit your lab or housing area, the site visitors might ask the following types of questions:

- What is your research project about?
- Where do you keep a current copy of your protocol & appendices?
- Is your protocol accessible to all lab personnel?
- What procedures do you perform with animals?
- How do you transport your animals (if applicable)?
- What do you know about the Animal Occupational Health & Safety Program (AOHSP)? Are you enrolled in the AOHSP?
- Who were you trained by?
- Do you know how to report an animal concern? (see <http://acuc.berkeley.edu/reporting.html> )



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## AAALAC Record Review

In addition to the ACUC and OLAC, the site visitors will also review a variety of records kept by Principal Investigators (PIs). The following documents should be readily available during the visit:

- All records pertaining to anesthesia
- All records pertaining to surgeries
- Documentation that lab personnel have received training for the specific procedures as outlined on the personnel form of your AUP
- The current copy of your AUP including appendices

## Occupational Health & Safety is Important!

The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy and the *Guide* require institutions to provide an occupational health program for all personnel who come in contact with animals. To remain compliant, the ACUC rolled out an online Animal Exposure Questionnaire (AEQ) to ensure that everyone has a personalized assessment of the health risks associated with animal exposure.

AAALAC takes occupational health and safety very seriously, so please make sure you and your lab personnel are aware of the Animal Occupational Health & Safety Program (AOHSP). More information is available at:

[http://acuc.berkeley.edu/policies/animal\\_ohsp.pdf](http://acuc.berkeley.edu/policies/animal_ohsp.pdf) .

## Thank you!

This AAALAC site visit is very important to our animal care and use program at UC Berkeley. Please help us show AAALAC why we deserve exemplary commendations again!