



Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
acuc@berkeley.edu

(510) 642-8855
www.acuc.berkeley.edu

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Message from the Chairs

As many of you know, our Attending Veterinarian (AV), Roger Van Andel, has accepted a position at the University of Utah and will be leaving UC Berkeley at the end of June. We would like to thank Roger for his dedicated contributions to the program over the last five and a half years. Roger started at UCB during a time of transition, including a new Vice Chancellor for Research, a new Director of the Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU), and the advent of Operation Excellence. Under Roger's guidance, the program has seen a successful AAALAC re-accreditation site visit, the completion of the new LKS animal facility, the planning and construction of a new mouse barrier facility, and successful placement of all the remaining hyenas from the Berkeley research colony of these animals. A search committee for the new Attending Veterinarian has been formed and a Nation-wide search has begun.

Two articles in this newsletter highlight recent and upcoming inspections. The USDA conducted their annual inspection at UC Berkeley in March and, while there were no citations issued, the ACUC will be working closely with PIs using USDA-covered species to assure their animal use protocols comply with recent changes in USDA guidance.

The ACUC will also be working with PIs this summer and fall to prepare for our accreditation site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). AAALAC visits the campus every three years for a comprehensive evaluation of the animal care and use program.

Kind regards,

Bill Sha
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Vice Chair

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New USDA Inspection Guidance Affects Recent Inspection of UCB

In late February 2015, the USDA released a revised version of the inspection guidance document used by USDA inspectors when conducting mandated unannounced inspections of licensed research facilities. The changes were based on audit recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The USDA Animal Care Inspection Guide revisions specifically address the process that inspectors follow in selecting protocols to review and in confirming annual report numbers.

The USDA conducted its annual, unannounced inspection of UC Berkeley's animal care and use program on March 10-13, 2015. We received a "clean" inspection report with no citations. The inspectors were following the new provision of the Animal Care Inspection Guide and reviewed more protocols at a greater level of detail than they have in the past. They also spent more time verifying how we report animal usage on our USDA Annual Report. They had several recommendations, particularly regarding if and how protocols provide an adequate rationale and justification for the use of animals.

The ACUC will continue to work closely with PIs to verify that the rationale sections of their protocols are complete and sufficiently detailed. As part of this process, PIs working with USDA-covered species (e.g., hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, non-human primates, etc.) who have not yet moved their AUPs to eProtocol are being asked to do so by January 2016. The focused and detailed questions in this section of the eProtocol form will help both PIs and the ACUC ensure compliance with USDA regulations and the expectations of USDA inspectors.

AAALAC Site Visit Planned for Fall 2015

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) will be conducting a review of the UC Berkeley animal care and use program this year, which will include a site visit during the fall of 2015. ACUC, OACU and OLAC will be working closely with investigators during the summer and early fall to prepare for a successful visit. For further guidance, please see the ["How to Prepare for an AAALAC Site Visit" Self-assessment Checklist](#) on the ACUC website. For questions, please contact the OACU at 642-8855 or acuc@berkeley.edu.

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Amending Your eProtocol?

The eProtocol system insures version control by only allowing one Amendment review at a time. Once a PI submits an Amendment for review, another Amendment cannot be submitted until the first one is approved. If you are planning to revise your protocol, please contact the OACU to discuss the best submission strategies. Some reviews, such as adding personnel or updating funding sources, can be handled administratively. Other types of changes may involve Designated Member Review (DMR) or will need to go to a convened meeting for Full Committee Review (FCR). Depending on the type of changes and the time line involved, the OACU can advise the PI on the best plan for submitting Amendments.

Attention Field Researchers!

EH&S is offering matching funds for 2-day NOLS Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training. Faculty, staff and students who do research or lead trips to field stations or remote areas (defined as isolated work sites with limited communications or more than 30 minutes from emergency medical services) are eligible. Upcoming training dates are posted at:

<https://www.nols.edu/portal/wmi/courses/wfa/ca/>.

Matching funds from EH&S are available on a first come, first served basis. Please email sarasouza@berkeley.edu for more information.

Course description from National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS): The WFA course will help you prepare for the unexpected. This fast paced, hands-on training is designed to meet the needs of trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals working in remote locations. It will introduce you to caring for people who become ill or injured far from standard medical care. Classroom lectures and demonstrations are combined with realistic scenarios where mock patients will challenge you to integrate your learning. At the end of the course, you'll have the knowledge, skills and ability to make sound decisions in emergency situations. Learning takes place both in the classroom and in outdoor settings regardless of weather conditions. Come prepared for wet, muddy, cold or hot environments.

Other planning tools available now for field researchers:

Register your trip for travel insurance documentation and emergency support: <http://riskservices.berkeley.edu/insurance-programs/travel>

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Amended California Regulations Impact Outdoor Workers when Temperatures hit 80° F

Most of us have experienced some form of heat illness—perhaps on a trip to a hot climate or sitting in the hot sun at an outdoor event. We likely chose to seek air conditioning or recover in the shade with a cold drink. For field researchers at remote work sites, however, access to water, shade and medical help may be more challenging. Because heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke and be fatal, Cal/OSHA enforces the Heat Illness Prevention Standard (Title 8 §3395) to address this occupational hazard. This program involves training, supervision, access to water, and mandatory rest breaks in shade. As of May 1, 2015 the requirements of the Heat Illness Prevention Standard are required for outdoor workers when temperatures reach 80 °F (instead of 85 °F). Other amendments include clarification that water provided must be “fresh, pure and suitably cool,” and that a pre-shift meeting is now required when high-temperature controls are triggered at 95 °F. Supervisors must also ensure effective worker monitoring by direct supervision, a buddy system, or regular communication via radio or cell phone. A Heat Illness Prevention and Response Fact Sheet, along with a new one-page Work Planning and Site Checklist are available from EH&S at:

<http://ehs.berkeley.edu/field-safety>

(Or contact Sara Souza for assistance at sarsouza@berkeley.edu.)



OLAC Update: Personnel Updates

There have been two new additions to the OLAC staff:

- A Trainer IV will start July 1 and will oversee the training program for both OLAC staff and research faculty, staff and students.
- A new Lab Animal Supervisor II will start on May 18th and will oversee operations at one of the OLAC animal facilities.

For questions, please contact OLAC at 642-9232.