



# Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)  
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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Chair's Message](#)
- 2 [Cryopreservation](#)
- 3 [Free OLAW Webinar](#)
- 4 [Data Security Changes](#)
- 5 [Reporting Animal Bites](#)
- 6 [Sharing Excess Animals](#)
- 7 [Policy & Guideline Updates](#)

## Chair's Message

At the end of 2021, the [Animal Welfare Act was amended](#) to eliminate the requirement that AUPs utilizing USDA-covered species undergo annual continuing review. The ACUC updated its [Policy on Protocol Review](#) to reflect this change, and researchers are no longer required to submit annual continuing reviews. We are working on eliminating automated email reminders about annual reviews from the eProtocol system. If you receive any, you can safely ignore them.

In preparation for the AAALAC International's upcoming site visit in spring 2023, the ACUC is in the process of updating our Policies and Guidelines. New and updated versions are noted on the last page of this newsletter, and all ACUC Policies and Guidelines are available on the ACUC website (<https://acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html>).

## RESOURCES

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

Regards,

Karsten Gronert  
ACUC Chair

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## Cryopreserving Animal Lines

Investigators are responsible for maintaining their critical animal lines through cryopreservation. The university cannot be held responsible for saving animal lives over human lives in an emergency. Cryopreservation resources include:

- <https://mmrrc.ucdavis.edu/>
- <https://www.criver.com/products-services/research-models-services/genetically-engineered-model-services>
- <https://www.jax.org/jax-mice-and-services/colony-management/cryopreservation>

## Free OLAW Webinar about Animal Model Alternatives

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has made a free webinar recording available, titled "Best Practices for Conducting a Search for Alternatives and Finding Animals Model/Model Organism Information". Panelists discuss how to find 3Rs (replacement, reduction, and refinement) methods and animal use alternative information in bibliographic databases. Visit the following webpage for the captioned webinar, PDF of the transcript, and a PDF of the slides:

<https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2021-12-09.htm>

## Data Security Level Changes

Under the revised UC Berkeley [Data Classification Standard](#), information about animal research procedures, personnel, rooms, and facilities is under Protection Level 3. Acceptable ways to store and send this type of data include:

- G Suite for Education
- Box
- bCourses Project Sites

In addition, to maintain appropriate security, please use your berkeley.edu email address when sending and receiving emails about your animal research. The ACUC expects that email communications (including those from eProtocol) sent your Berkeley email account are not forwarded to other email accounts you may have. If animal research-related data is forwarded to your non-Berkeley account, any security risks become your responsibility. All members of your lab must follow this practice for security measures to be effective.

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## Bitten by a research animal?

If a bite or scratch occurs during animal care or research, you must report the incident to your supervisor immediately. Supervisors should report the injury through the University's online Employer's First Report (EFR) system. The injured person should then seek medical treatment. For more information, visit <https://ehs.berkeley.edu/workplace-safety/work-related-injuries-and-illnesses>. The ACUC does not need to be informed when these incidents occur, but EH&S should be contacted directly if the injury is severe, involves infectious agents, or involves recombinant DNA.

## Sharing Excess Colony Animals

Does your breeding colony produce more animals than you need for your study? PIs are strongly encouraged to share naïve colony animals that would otherwise be culled. This can help reduce per diems for labs, ensure that animals are being utilized appropriately, and help improve use of vivarium space on campus.

To request or post availability of animals, go to the OLAC Forum, a discussion board created for Animal Exchange:

<https://www.olac.berkeley.edu/forum>

### Rules for forum posting and requests:

1. Animals requested must be already listed on your AUP.
2. Offers of animals need to include strain, age (or date of birth range), number of males/females, and building location
3. State date they will be first available, and last day of holding before euthanasia
4. Animals must be naïve, having no prior treatments or procedures
5. Transfers must comply with the ACUC's [Change in Animal Ownership for Research Purposes Policy](#)

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## Policy & Guideline Updates

- [Euthanasia Guidelines](#) - revised 10/14/2021
- [Site Inspections Policy](#) - NEW 11/15/2021
- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 12/15/2021
- [IACUC Membership Policy](#) - effective 4/1/2022
- [Post-Approval Monitoring Policy](#) - effective 4/1/2022
- [Training and Education Policy](#) - effective 4/1/2022
- [Policy on Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds](#) - effective 4/1/2022