



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 [AAALAC Self-Assessment Checklist](#)

Chair's Message

AAALAC is Coming!

Our next site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) will take place February 27th - March 1st. AAALAC visits the campus every three years to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the animal care and use program. This visit is critical to maintaining our AAALAC accreditation as an outstanding animal care program.

Currently, ACUC/OACU and OLAC are working with PIs to prepare for this visit. Please see the AAALAC Preparation: Lab Self-Assessment Checklist on the following page to ensure that you and your lab are ready for the visit. If you have any questions, please reach out to acuc@berkeley.edu for assistance.

In the coming weeks you will also receive a newsletter detailing updates to the Occupational Health and Safety Program. This will cover changes to the ACUC Occupational Health Policy and tips for navigating OHSS.

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

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. [Click here for our Lab Training Record Example!](#)
- All personnel are up to date on their CITI online training
- All personnel that are performing euthanasia, anesthesia, or surgery independently have been certified by OLAC and documentation of certification 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 have participated in the Occupational Health Surveillance System ([OHSS](#))
- Anesthetic gases are properly scavenged.

Procedures and Procedure Space

- Locations where animal procedures are performed are clean, free of clutter, and only contain items that can be sanitized.
- 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 will be 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.
- Heating pads used for anesthetized animals must meet current requirements:
 - Best heat sources: circulating warm water or warm air blankets, infrared warming pads, chemical warming pads, thermal gel packs.
 - If an electric heating pad is used, it **must** have an attached thermostat that specifies the temperature in Fahrenheit or Celsius. Heating pads with settings that only indicate temperature levels, such as high, medium, and low, are not acceptable.
 - Electric heating pads must never be folded or rolled during use or storage. Both actions can create cracks and hot spots within the heating pad.
 - A barrier (paper towel, towel, etc.) must be in place between the animal and the heating pad.

Animal Housing Areas (see [ACUC Guidelines](#))

- Breeding colonies are maintained appropriately, which includes assuring that cage housing density does not exceed recommendations (i.e., no overcrowded cages).
- Cage cards are OLAC Standard or Breeding Cage Cards. Request cage cards online via the “Cage Card Order Form” on OLAC [website](#).