



# Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)  
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## Chair's Message

Later this year, the ACUC will begin asking for annual reports of animal numbers used. This is in response to feedback from AAALAC during their recent site visit. Each lab is responsible for tracking and counting the number of animals bred and used for their AUPs. If you do not already have a mechanism in place to track animal usage, there are free software packages available (e.g., [Transnetyx - Colony](#) for rodents). If you have questions about how to appropriately track animal numbers, please contact [acuc@berkeley.edu](mailto:acuc@berkeley.edu).

Regards,

Karsten Gronert  
ACUC Chair

## Global MOU Between UCB and UCSF

To reduce administrative burden between UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco, our IACUC offices have established a global Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cover collaborative projects between the universities.

## RESOURCES

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

If you are engaged in a collaboration with UCSF researchers that involves live animals, you will still need to describe this on your AUP in the 'Are You Using?' section. However, you will no longer need to initiate a MOU. **Please note** that MOUs are still needed for research collaborations with investigators at other institutions, in cases where animal transfer or shared funding will occur. If you are collaborating with an institution other than UCSF and are unsure if a MOU is needed, please contact [acuc@berkeley.edu](mailto:acuc@berkeley.edu).

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## Cage Card Documentation

Correct use of cage cards is imperative for appropriate documentation. You must completely fill out cage cards and adhere to monitoring requirements specified on your AUP.

### Non-Standard Housing/Care

- If you are approved to conduct non-standard housing or care, you must submit a [Special Services Request](#) to make sure OLAC staff are aware.
- Non-standard care includes (but is not limited to):
  - Special (nonstandard) feed or water
  - Extended fasting
  - Nonstandard light cycles
  - Weaning mice after 21 days
  - Cold exposure

### Post-Surgical Records/Monitoring Cards

- For animals undergoing surgery, tumor studies, or experimental injections, personnel must monitor animals at the frequency specified in their AUP.
- The date, treatment given (e.g. "meloxicam 5mg/kg SQ"), and initials of person providing treatment must be recorded on the card for each day the animals were monitored.
- If there is not enough space to record observations on the back of cage cards, more detailed notes may be recorded elsewhere (e.g. lab notebooks, digital spreadsheets).
  - This must be clearly noted on each cage card
    - Example: "Detailed daily observations are recorded in a digital spreadsheet. Contact [fill in name] to view these records."
  - Monitoring dates and initials of the person checking animals must still be recorded on the backs of cage cards, even in these cases.

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If appropriate monitoring is not clearly documented on cage cards, OLAC will document this and may report it to the ACUC as a noncompliance.

To view a recorded training on use of special rodent cage cards, please visit the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dXAHoHDCffNnEbyx-5ujsmZ00VucMWvx/view?usp=sharing>

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## Reminder about Updating Personnel

As personnel join and leave your lab, please make sure you update your AUP accordingly.

- Personnel **cannot** begin hands-on animal work until they are approved on the AUP.
- For cyber security reasons, personnel must use their "@berkeley.edu" email addresses. Non-Berkeley personnel can request [affiliate accounts](#) to fulfill this requirement.
- Personnel will continue to have viewing access of the protocol and receive certain automatic eProtocol emails until they are officially removed from the AUP via an amendment.

## Students Visiting from Other Institutions

If you are welcoming undergraduates from other institutions into your lab for summer programs or projects, be aware that they must complete the same requirements as UCB students if they will be working hands-on with animals. This includes [CITI training](#) and [OHSS health clearance](#). To ensure that visiting students are not delayed access to animal facilities, please contact OACU at [acuc@berkeley.edu](mailto:acuc@berkeley.edu) as soon as you know a non-UCB student will need to be listed on your AUP - ideally **before** they arrive on campus.

## USDA Bird Regulations

USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations were recently amended to include birds. This applies to birds not bred for use in research (e.g. birds born in the wild or in rehabilitation centers). Labs conducting research with birds that meet these criteria are now subject to USDA oversight and reporting. OACU will be reaching out to PIs that we know will be affected by these regulations, which go into effect on July 1, 2023!

## Policy & Guideline Updates

- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 12/31/2022
- [Blood Collection Techniques and Limits](#) - revised 1/12/2023
- [Animal Occupational Health and Safety Program](#) - revised 2/8/2023
- [Environmental Enrichment Plan](#) - revised 4/20/2023

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