



# Berkeley Animal Care News

April 2024  
Volume 13  
Issue 1

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

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The mission of the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) is to work in partnership with Faculty that are engaged in animal research, the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) and the Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU) to ensure the health and well-being of animals, facilitate research that supports human and animal health and to ensure institutional compliance with federal regulations. These federal regulations require that the ACUC report all significant non-compliances or adverse events to relevant regulatory agencies, such as the USDA and OLAW and in some cases the funding agency. Those reports must include a full explanation of the circumstances, as well as the actions taken to resolve and prevent repeated incidents. Additional information may be required when non-compliances or serious adverse events are associated with federally funded work or collaborations with other institutions. Reporting a non-compliance or adverse event does not impact active or pending funding from a federal agency (e.g., NIH or NSF) unless the Vice Chancellor of Research - our Institutional Official - suspends an AUP upon recommendation from the ACUC.

However, reported non-compliances can result in fines to the University and can also result in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) requests from animal rights activists who may use them to create negative media attention. Protocols are not public information however, if there is a specific request for protocol(s) that do "X" procedure then we must provide the AUP(s). When UCB provides requested documents, we redact the following information:

- Names, addresses, contact information, and other identifying information of UCB personnel, collaborators, and vendors. Publicly named personnel such as the Attending Veterinarian, ACUC Chair, and the Institutional Official are not redacted.
- Building and facility names, locations, and room numbers
- Proprietary information

### RESOURCES

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Please be aware of these reporting requirements and potential consequences. Reviewing and amending your AUP(s) on a regular basis to ensure they accurately describe in detail currently used or planned procedures and continuous training and review of animal procedure by research personnel are critical steps to avoid non-compliance or adverse event incidences.

Regards,  
Karsten Gronert, ACUC Chair

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## Personnel Training Requirements

PIs are responsible for making sure their lab personnel complete appropriate training before performing procedures. Certification of skill is required by the ACUC to show competency to independently perform euthanasia, use anesthesia, and perform surgery on animals. **Previous training at another institution does not exempt personnel from completing the ACUC-required OLAC certification training.**

- **Anesthesia and euthanasia:** personnel must be observed and certified by OLAC veterinary staff or OLAC Training Coordinator **before they are allowed to perform these procedures at all.** Personnel are not permitted to perform anesthesia and euthanasia under supervision of other certified lab members, they must be certified by OLAC themselves.
- **Surgery:** personnel must be certified for both anesthesia and euthanasia **before** they are allowed to engage in surgical procedure training. An individual may not perform surgical procedures unless certified by OLAC to do so, or unless directly supervised by someone who has already been certified by OLAC.
- **Other procedures:** protocol-specific training may be provided by the PI or their designee. Training done within a PI's lab **must be documented by the PI** and be available for ACUC review at the time of semiannual inspections.

[Request training and certification by OLAC on the OLAC website.](#)

Personnel must be on an approved protocol prior to requesting training or certification. For more details about required training, [see the updated ACUC Policy of Training & Education here.](#)

## Repeat Minor Non-compliance

If a minor noncompliance is discovered (e.g., inadequate documentation on cage cards, failure to adequately monitor and/or document animals post-procedure, failure to complete required training), PIs are expected to address the finding to prevent repeat occurrences.

If repeat incidents occur, the non-compliance may be elevated from a 'minor' finding and resolutions may be more stringent (e.g., lab-wide re-training, pauses or suspensions to research, reports to regulatory agencies). It is in each PI and lab's best interest to address minor non-compliances quickly and adequately.

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## Special Services Requests

What is a Special Services Request (SSR)?

- A request to perform an activity that is not part of OLAC's standard husbandry or veterinary care (e.g., nonstandard feed or water, nonstandard light cycle, delayed weaning, extended fasting). **The requested activity must already be approved in the protocol.**
- This is different from a Research Services Request, which is a request for technical support or equipment rental.
- Approved and posted SSRs help OLAC and the ACUC differentiate between nonstandard care that is intentional and approved within a room, and unapproved deviations (i.e., non-compliant activities).

What is the submission process?

- [Submit the SSR form on the OLAC website](#)
  - Complete all sections and submit at least one week before the proposed start date
  - The end date must not exceed the expiration date of the approved protocol
  - Include details about monitoring frequency, when applicable
- The form will be sent to the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) for review. OACU will confirm that the requested activities are approved in the protocol.
- Confirmation of approval is sent to OLAC. The Facility Supervisor will post instructions in the requested animal room. Labs cannot add this information themselves. The SSR will be posted until the expiration date of the request.

## Research Data Management Program

Do you have questions about how to safely store your lab's data and recordings? The UCB Research Data Management (RDM) Program can help. The RDM Program supports researchers by consulting, delivering training/workshops, and developing documentation.

[See the full list of RDM Program services.](#) To get in touch with the RDM Program, please email [researchdata@berkeley.edu](mailto:researchdata@berkeley.edu).

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## Free rodent euthanasia via OLAC

If your lab has rodents that need to be euthanized, OLAC will perform the task at no charge and with no amendment to the protocol necessary. Simply [submit a Rodent Euthanasia Request on the OLAC website](#).

This service **ONLY** applies to cull animals, **NOT** sick/injured animals, cages where hazards are involved, or ABSL2/3 cages.

Utilizing this service will:

1. Reduce lab per diem fees in the long term
2. Reduce the time performing an activity that takes away from research
3. Reduces compassion fatigue for PIs and lab personnel

If you need euthanasia post-its, contact the area supervisor.

## Free Workshop Offered by AWIC

The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) is offering a free, two-session online workshop for individuals who work with animals in research. The workshop covers how to find 3Rs alternatives (replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal use) information. Free registration is available for the following dates:

- May 8 & 9, 2024 - 10am-1pm PST

[Register to participate here](#). Can't attend the live workshop? AWIC offers a free, pre-recorded, self-paced training online as well as live, customizable presentations and trainings upon request by emailing [awic@usda.gov](mailto:awic@usda.gov).

## Policy & Guideline Updates

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- [Mouse Cage Density Guidelines](#) - revised 11/2/2023
- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 11/3/2023
- [Environmental Enrichment Guidelines](#) - revised 11/8/2023
- [Training & Education Policy](#) - revised 11/15/2023
- [Multiple Partial Ovariectomies in Xenopus \(MPOX\)](#) - revised 3/13/2024