



Berkeley Animal Care News

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

We are very pleased to share that Dr. Gregory Timmel will serve as our next Attending Veterinarian (AV) and Director of the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) beginning May 1st. Dr. Timmel obtained his DVM from Colorado State University in 1998 and has over 35 years of laboratory animal medicine experience as a clinical laboratory animal veterinarian (and at times, as Director) at UC San Francisco, UC Berkeley, Legacy Health, the Oregon National Primate Research Center, Oregon Health & Science University, and most recently at UC Davis. Dr. Timmel has a wealth of experience with all species commonly used in biomedical research, with a particular focus on non-human primates.

We want to express our gratitude to Dr. Cliff Roberts, who has served as interim AV and OLAC Director since Dr. Gregory Lawson's retirement last year. Dr. Roberts will continue to assist with the transition while Dr. Timmel is onboarded next month.

We are also pleased to introduce a new OLAC veterinarian, Dr. Jacob Herford. Dr. Herford comes to us from the California National Primate Research Center at UC Davis where he recently completed a one-year fellowship followed by a three-year residency. Before going to vet school at Kansas State University, he worked with non-human primates for five years in both a research assistant and a lab manager role at the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience.

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Regards,

Karsten Gronert
ACUC Chair

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Updating Laboratory Personnel on the AUP

As personnel join and leave your lab, the AUP must be updated accordingly.

When personnel join the lab:

- They **cannot** begin hands-on animal work until they are approved on the AUP and have completed facility orientation.
- For cyber security reasons, personnel must use their "@berkeley.edu" email addresses on the AUP. Non-Berkeley personnel can request [affiliate accounts](#) to fulfill this requirement.

Important Note: "Piggy backing" or "tailgating" to enter a building is not allowed. This includes letting others borrow card keys for access or bringing in lab members who have not completed the orientation process. These practices are considered noncompliant and put the security of all animal-using PIs and personnel at risk.

When personnel leave the lab:

- Immediately contact OLAC to remove former personnel's key card access to your animal rooms.
- Submit an amendment to remove them from the AUP. Note: 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.

Weaning Mouse Pups

When breeding mice, labs are required to check for litters and/or pregnancies **daily**. Weaning must occur by 21 days after birth. Strains that need delayed weaning must be specified on the AUP ([contact the OLAC Trainer](#) for a breeding consult prior to submitting).

Once pups reach weaning age, they must be separated into new cages. Per the ACUC's [Mouse Cage Density Guidelines](#), a cage with an adult female and a litter 21 days of age or older, or two litters that are 7 days in age difference, is considered overcrowded. Labs are responsible for separating overcrowded cages. If OLAC has to separate animals on the lab's behalf, **this incurs a cost of \$20.06 per cage**.

Newly weaned pups **must** be provided with supportive care in the form of wet food on the floor of the cage or in a pup cup for a minimum of 3 days (checked and replaced daily) to ensure appropriate hydration and nutrition. Supportive diets (e.g., Nutri-Cal and DietGel) can be ordered from OLAC.

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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.

To undergo training and view examples of appropriate cage card documentation, please attend the online [EH&S 208 OLAC Cage Cards training course](#).

Investigator Will Cards

- 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.
- Appropriate monitoring notes and frequencies must be clearly documented on the back of the card.
- If the cards are not filled out correctly, OLAC cannot be accountable for misinterpreting the type of special care that is taking place.

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 the 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.
 - When no further monitoring is required, write "complete" after the most recent check date to convey that monitoring has been completed rather than forgotten.

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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.

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Personnel Training Requirements

PIs are responsible for making sure their lab personnel complete appropriate training. This is specified in the [Policy on Principal Investigator Responsibilities](#), and each PI attests that they will comply with this policy as part of their AUP submission process.

To be approved on an AUP, personnel must complete:

- “Working with the IACUC (All animal users)” [CITI training course](#)
- [Occupational health clearance](#)

To begin animal research in the vivarium, personnel must complete facility orientation. The facility orientation request form is available on the [OLAC website here](#). As part of orientation, individuals must:

- Complete the [EHS205 online course](#)
- Be approved on the PI's AUP

[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](#).

Policy & Guideline Updates

- [Fasting Animals, Special/Regulated Diets/Water/Housing Policy](#) - revised 11/1/2024
- [Animal Transportation](#) - revised 11/1/2024
- [Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds Policy](#) - revised 11/1/2024
- [Animal Care & Use Program Policy](#) - revised 11/14/2024
- [Justification of Animal Numbers](#) - revised 11/20/2024
- [Change in Animal Ownership for Research Purposes Policy](#) - revised 11/21/2024
- [Reporting Suspected Deficiencies in Animal Care or Treatment](#) - revised 11/25/2024
- [Training & Education Policy](#) - revised 11/26/2024
- [Literature Searches for Alternatives](#) - revised 12/11/2024
- [IACUC Membership Policy](#) - revised 12/13/2024
- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 12/23/2024
- [Site Inspection Policy](#) - revised 1/7/2025
- [Environmental Enrichment](#) - revised 1/8/2025
- [Animal Occupational Health & Safety Program Policy](#) - revised 1/15/2025

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