THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING AT UIUC

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ANIMAL CARE AT ILLINOIS IS ACCREDITED BY AAALAC, INT’L.

Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International

*Campus-wide accreditation since 2001*

Voluntary, peer-review process
- Extensive & intensive preparation (facilities and documentation)
- Site visits every 3 years
- 6-8 person site visit team
- on campus for 1 week
DEFINITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES: COMPLIANCE

- **IACUC** *Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee*
  - Mandated by Federal Law to provide oversight
  - Must keep regulatory entities (USDA/OLAW) informed
  - *Must* approve all activities (housing, breeding, research, teaching) that use animals (lab & ag) *before* the work begins
  - Has authority to halt animal use
  - Requires Basic on-line training for all animal users

- **IACUC Staff**
  - Dr. Solter, Chair
  - Judy Van Cleeff & Kathy Branson, IACUC Specialists
  - Ben Hayek, Administrative Assistant
DEFINITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES: SAFETY

- **DRS** Division of Research Safety
  - *Must* approve **all** activities involving risks for biological, chemical or radiation hazards **before** the work begins
  - Assessments are protocol-linked
  - May require audits of laboratories
  - Will require substantial lead time for some approvals
  - Dr Peter Ashbrook, Director

- **OHS** Occupational Health and Safety
  - Risks are assessed at the time of protocol review
  - Basic on-line training is required for all animal users
  - Information resource for zoonotic diseases, liaison for other occupational risks (e.g. hearing, air quality)
  - Sara Myers, OHS Specialist
Definitions & Responsibilities: Animal Care

- **AACUP**  
  Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program Oversees:
  
  - Veterinary care of research and teaching animals at Animal Sciences and Vet Research & Teaching Farms, LAC
  - Animal use for the Large Animal Teaching Program @ CVM
  - Animal procurements and transfers, vendor assessments

- Dr Cliff Shipley, Attending Veterinarian
- Dr Cory Bromfield, AACUP Veterinarian
- Linda Brown, Veterinary Technician
- Cindy Pruitt, Office Administrator
**Definitions & Responsibilities: Animal Care**

- **DAR** Division of Animal Resources Oversees:
  - Lab Animal Facilities & their personnel
  - Veterinary care of research and teaching lab animals & ag animals used as biomedical models @ERML/VetMed
  - Lab animal procurements and transfers, vendor assessments
  - Wildlife studies

- Dr Lyndon Goodly, Director & AV
- Drs. Sarah Allison and Jen Criley, Asst Directors
- Veterinary Technicians: Cher Cain, Raegan Carter, Phaedra Hutchison, Jamie Ludwig
- Deb Harris, Office Administrator
IACUC AND YOU!

- IACUC protocols should be considered legal documents
  - Personnel must know what they are doing and why – Read it!
  - Protocol must be followed as written
  - Changes must be approved prior to implementation
  - Deviations must be reported

- So, write your protocols with
  - Some built-in wiggle room (timing, frequency)
  - A few extra animals for training, unforeseen circumstances
  - Alternatives (e.g. blood sampling sites, procedural approaches)

The IACUC understands that mistakes are made, stuff happens. It is far better to report an incident than to have it found out. It is far easier to fix small problems early than to manage a disaster later!
MISSIONS OF THE AGRICULTURAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM

- Ensure *high quality care* and promote the *health and well-being* of agricultural animals used in research and teaching
- Ensure *compliance* with regulations, policies, guidelines, and professional standards
- Provide *training, educational resources, consultation and technical assistance*
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PRIORITIES
BUT EVERYONE IS ON EACH TEAM!
UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN USING AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING: STANDARDS

Two sets of standards:

- **Food and Fiber Research**
  - Relevant to commercial agriculture
  - *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (2010)*

- **Biomedical Research & Teaching**
  - Animal models for clinical studies, veterinary teaching
  - Regulated by USDA
  - *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th Ed.)*

AACUP & IACUC CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE REGULATIONS
Unique Challenges in Using Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching: Intersections

- **Human food production vs. research and teaching activities**
  - Influence of production on research (timing, availability)
  - Influence of research on production/health
  - Animals may be used on multiple projects simultaneously or sequentially

- **Research conducted at private/commercial farms using University resources/personnel**
  - Our oversight is limited, but you must know about owner expectations, biosecurity issues

- **What is the impact on the animals, their products, or the herd?**
  - Will treatments imposed affect subsequent use of the animal?
  - Will your activity impact animal or herd production/health?
  - Might some projects need multiple dispositions? How is this managed?
GETTING HELP: KNOW WHERE TO CALL

- **Emergencies:**
  - Vets are on-call 24/7 – Call in the case of severe injury or illness
  - Facility emergency – Call the facility manager and/or University Police
  - Emergency contact sheets are posted in every facility

- **Research Consultation:**
  - Your PI is the first resource
  - Vet staff – for anesthesia/analgesia drugs and protocols
  - IACUC Staff – for protocol writing, compliance rules & requirements, expertise on campus

- **Training:**
  - PI & Senior staff (Watch out for “drift”!)
  - AACUP & DAR (animal procedures/surgery)
  - IACUC Staff (protocol writing, use of on-line system, protocol changes)

- **Day-to-Day Stuff:**
  - Know your farm, know your facility manager and staff
GETTING HELP: KNOW WHERE TO CALL

- **Suspect animal mistreatment?**
  - Report to the IACUC, DAR, AACUP, the Vice Chancellor’s Office, or Office of Public Engagement
  - Confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible

- **See unnecessary risk to personnel?**
  - Contact OHS Specialist, IACUC, DAR, DRS
Welcome
(or Welcome Back)
to the University of Illinois!