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Section I: Introduction

Purpose

Humane care, use, and treatment of animals used for instructional research-related purposes are institutional responsibilities. The Lamar University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) oversees the welfare of any animals used in experimental research, teaching methods, and their care and facilities, as directed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health. The membership of the committee shall consist of three faculty representatives, a Veterinarian, plus one representative from the community. The associate provost for research and sponsored programs shall also serve as a member and chair the committee.

The IACUC will provide the following:

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2) Timely certifications and reports on the humane care and use of animals as required by governmental agencies.

Applicability

This Policy is applicable to all Lamar University faculty, staff, and student activities involving animals, whether the activities are performed at LU, at collaborating institution(s), or in the field. Investigators conducting activities involving animals shall comply with this Policy which sets forth standards for the humane care and use of animals.

This Policy follows applicable state and local laws or regulations which impose more stringent standards for the care and use of laboratory animals, and includes the Animal Welfare Act, and other Federal statutes and regulations relating to animals.

Responsibilities and Procedures

1) The University IACUC shall maintain records of committee activities in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. These records shall be available for inspection by authorized representatives of governmental agencies.
2) Deans, Chairpersons, or faculty members having jurisdiction over animal care and use facilities are responsible for the implementation of professionally acceptable standards for the care and use of all animals within their jurisdiction and assuring that those standards are met.
3) All investigators, including students, must follow the procedures and guidelines set forth by the IACUC and additionally accept responsibility to assure actions dealing with animals will be in accordance with humane standards and the laws and regulations cited below in the section, Definitions and References. Investigators are responsible for authorized care and use of animals by students under their supervision.
4) Standards for the construction and use of housing, service, and surgical facilities for animals shall meet those described in the Guide or otherwise required by the Animal Welfare Act (P.L. 89-544).
5) Transportation of animals must be in accord with state and applicable standards and promptly delivered, uncrated, and placed in the Animal Care facility.
6) Acquisition of animals shall be in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.
7) Disposal of dead animals shall be in accordance with governmental regulations.
8) All activities involving animals for which the University bears any responsibility must be considered by the University IACUC in accordance with protocol review procedures.

Section 2: Institutional Policies

Monitoring the Care and Use of Animals

1)

alternative to destruction and must be approved by the IACUC and those who receive animals must first sign a statement assuming responsibility for the animals received.

Role of the Veterinarian

5) Personal Protective Equipment Personal protective clothing, equipment and other safety measures prescribed by the EHS and Risk Management policy must be utilized as often as necessary and should not be worn beyond the boundary of the hazardous-agent work area or the animal facility.
6) A high standard of personal cleanliness is essential. Personnel are not permitted to eat, drink, use tobacco products, or apply cosmetics in animal rooms. Refer to EHS and Risk Management regarding laundering services, decontamination methods.

Experimentation Involving Hazardous Agents

1) Policies and Procedures. Protective devices and other safety measures consistent with current practices are used to guard against exposure to potentially hazardous biological, chemical and physical agents (CFR, 1984a, b).
2) Monitoring. The University Building and Laboratory Safety Coordinator is knowledgeable about hazardous agents and is appointed to evaluate safety issues. The procedures and facilities used in such studies are reviewed by both this officer and the Animal Welfare Committee. Formal safety programs are established to assess the hazards, determine the safeguards needed for their control, and ensure that the staff is competent and the facilities are adequate for the safe conduct of the research. Technical suputagene staff/2rch1.04 Tf1 0 0 1 81.024 669.22 Tm0 g0 G 0.0427 Tc[(6))]TJETQq0.000C43(al l)4

permits freedom of movement and normal postural adjustment,
has a resting place appropriate to the species,
provides a comfortable environment,
provides an escape-proof enclosure that confines animals safely,
provides easy access to food and water,
provides adequate ventilation,
meets the biological needs of the animals, e.g., maintenance of body temperature, urination, defecation, and if appropriate, reproduction,
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physical restraint, and
protects the animals from known hazards.

Caging systems should be constructed of sturdy, durable materials and designed to minimize cross-infection between adjoining units. Cages have smooth, impervious surfaces with a minimum number of ledges, angles and corners where dirt or water can accumulate. The design allows inspection of cage occupants without disturbing them. Feeding and watering devices are easily accessible for filling, changing, cleaning and servicing. Cages, runs, and pens are kept in good repair to prevent injury to animals, promote physical comfort, and facilitate sanitation and servicing. Particular attention is given to eliminating sharp edges and broken wires, keeping cage floors in

4) Anesthesia and Analgesia

The proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers in laboratory animals is necessary for humane and scientific reasons. The choice and use of the most appropriate drugs are matters for the attending veterinarian's professional judgment. The veterinarian provides research personnel with guidelines and advice concerning choice and use of these drugs. If a painful procedure must be conducted without the use of an anesthetic, analgesic or tranquilizer, the procedure must be approved by the University IACUC and supervised directly by the responsible investigator since such use could alter research outcomes. Muscle relaxants or paralytic drugs (e.g., succinylcholine or other curariform drugs) are not anesthetics. They are not used alone for surgical restraint, although they can be used in conjunction with drugs known to produce adequate analgesia.

5) Survival Surgery and Post-Surgical Care

The following procedures apply to both non-rodent mammalian and rodent species:

a. Aseptic surgery is conducted only in facilities intended for that purpose. These facilities are maintained and operated to ensure cleanliness and directed and staffed by trained personnel. Surgery is performed or directly supervised by trained, experienced personnel. Training in aseptic surgery is provided for those who require it.
b. Aseptic technique is used on most animals including lagomorphs that undergo major survival surgery. This technique includes wearing of sterile surgical gloves, gowns, caps and facemasks; use of sterile instruments; and aseptic preparation of the surgical field. Major survival surgery is defined as any surgical intervention that penetrates a body cavity or has the potential for producing a permanent handicap in an animal that is expected to recover. Survival surgery on rodents does not require a special facility but should be performed using sterile instruments, surgical gloves, and aseptic procedures to prevent clinical infections.
c. Appropriate facili