

The Animal Examiner

News from the IACUC

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Top Three Noncompliances

- Performing “extra-protocol” animal activities. Please review your protocol to make sure you are **only** performing the approved procedures
- Using expired substances
- Exceeding protocol defined endpoints

WLAW and WWAL Week is Here - April 21-29

In the US, In Defense of Animals (IDA) organizes the World Week for Animals in Laboratories and the Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! (SAEN) organizes the World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week, but in any case, expect protesters with signs, media events, protest walks and the like. In a previous email to activists, Michael Budkie of the SAEN wrote:

*“Many kinds of events can be planned for World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week. Using information from our website any activist can plan a news conference to discuss the use of animals at a nearby laboratory. **Protests, rallies and civil disobedience can also be used to pressure a laboratory to change policies or even eliminate specific experiments.**”*

Locally, a protest walk is scheduled for this Saturday from 11:30AM to 1PM to begin at the Emory main gates with a march to Yerkes. Emory campus police are on top of the situation. As always, if anyone sees anything out of the ordinary, please let campus police know.

Please keep doors to labs, lockers, and cabinets that are supposed to be locked, locked! Do not leave labs unattended and unlocked. Don't let anyone else use your access badge or walk in with you to gain access to any animal facility.

“Let's be careful out there.” – Hill Street Blues

Introducing the Animal Research Classifieds (ARC)

Everyone should be familiar with Burch and Russell's concept of the “3Rs.” One of the “Rs” is reduction. The Animal Research Classifieds is being introduced as one nontraditional way to reduce the numbers of research animals.

Do you ever have a few extra “research naïve” animals left over on a project? Perhaps you ordered a couple extra just in case one becomes ill or is disqualified as a subject for some reason. Perhaps the vendor sends 28 rats instead of the 26 rats that you ordered. Perhaps you are breeding rodents and you need a specific number of pups at a certain age but the dams produce abundantly. What happens to the extras? Or perhaps

you need a few extra animals to practice a new surgical technique or to train new personnel, tissues for cell culture or a small number of animals for another purpose. So instead of ordering animals, use the extra ones that may be already here.

The ARC is a new listserv that sends out classified ads whenever anyone has extra animals or needs extra animals. Instead of euthanizing these animals, a use is found for them so that other animals do not have to be used. The ARC acts as an electronic clearinghouse but serves a real purpose of not wasting animal's lives.

The caveats to this process are that all intended uses or dispositions must be approved on an IACUC protocol. This is a simple amendment however. In the “Disposition of Animals at end of study” section of the protocol, designate “Released for Study” and answer the follow-up question with “Animals may be transferred to other investigators.” When the animals are transferred, an animal transfer form from one protocol to the other must be submitted.

This is not a public listserv. To signup, please send an email to [Dr. Larry Iten](mailto:Dr.LarryIten) with "ARC" in the email title. The more people that signup, the more effective this effort will be.

Tip for Swifter Review – Ask a Vet

When planning to write a new protocol or an amendment that adds a potentially painful procedure (nonsurgical or surgical) that may or may not involve anesthesia or an analgesic, you can avoid many of the reviewer's requested revisions if you enlist the help of one of the clinical veterinarians early in the planning process. They can not only help you with choosing the appropriate species, procedures, drugs, supplies, specialized caging, and other considerations to accomplish the aims of your project but can also suggest verbiage that the IACUC has approved before and is most likely to approve again. Remember that your protocol submission is not only reviewed by the scientific members of the IACUC but also by the veterinary reviewers. This will save time in the long run.

“A stitch in time saves nine.”

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