

# The Animal Examiner

News from the IACUC  
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## Top Three Noncompliances

- Exceeding protocol defined endpoints
- Performing animal activities in unapproved locations. All animal usage locations must be inspected by the IACUC prior to use and every 6 months thereafter.
- Inadequate post-procedure monitoring

## Upcoming IACUC Events

- Jul 11 - Web P&R Training
- Jul 18 - Gold IACUC Meeting
- Jul 23 - Blue IACUC Meeting
- Jul 24 - Pediatrics (ECC) & Clinic C Inspections
- Jul 25 - Web P&R Training
- Aug 1 - Gold IACUC Meeting
- Aug 2 - Peavine Kennel & Wesley Woods Inspections
- Aug 6 - Blue IACUC Meeting
- Aug 7 - CTRL Inspection
- Aug 8 - Web P&R Training
- Aug 15 - Gold IACUC Meeting
- Aug 16 - Whitehead Building PI Labs Inspection

Click [here](#) for IACUC website and the full calendar

## A Change in Annual Reviews Processing

### For research protocols using animals not covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) - Changes

The AWA's legal definition of "animal" specifically excludes birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research; horses not used for research purposes; and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to, livestock or poultry used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. Reptiles, fish, and amphibians are not warm-blooded and therefore are excluded as well.

The research protocol not using Act species is not required by the AWA to be formally reviewed and approved annually. However in the new "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" states in the section on Post approval Monitoring (PAM), "Continuing IACUC oversight of animal activities is required by federal laws, regulations, and policies. A variety of mechanisms can be used to facilitate ongoing protocol assessment and regulatory compliance.... Continuing protocol review typically consists of an annual update or review." The Emory IACUC has chosen a periodic PAM review for each protocol using non-Act species. The

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IACUC Office will contact either the PI or the project leader for the PAM review. This process should ease the paperwork burden, reduce time spent away from the research, and yet comply with the regulations.

### For research protocols using animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) – No Changes

An annual review of the research protocol is required to be conducted and documented. The review process uses the IACUC's online protocol and review system. The Principal Investigator (PI) completes and submits the annual review form online. The form is then reviewed and approved by procedures as set forth in the Emory University's PHS Assurance. No changes to these requirements or procedures have occurred.

## Implementing the New Guide – Rodent Surgery

One of the requirements of the new "Guide" places the responsibility to ensure that all members of the "Research Team" are properly trained in aseptic surgical technique, anesthesia and analgesia directly on the IACUC. The "Guide" page 17 states: "The institution should provide appropriate education and training to members of research teams—including principal investigators, study directors, research technicians, postdoctoral fellows, students, and visiting scientists—to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise for the specific animal procedures proposed and the species used." To accomplish this mandatory requirement the IACUC has approved in-house rodent surgery training programs for all personnel listed with the responsibility of performing rodent surgery. The training will provide certification of completion which will be necessary for protocol approval on all new and renewal protocols. The rodent surgery training certification program for animals under Emory University DAR care will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>; for Yerkes DAR, the program will begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact these units for more information and scheduling.

## Tip for Swifter Review

One of the most common suggestions by reviewers back to the PI in course of a protocol review is the use of a flow chart, timeline diagram or spreadsheet to demonstrate animal usage. The IACUC reviewer needs to be able to trace each group of animals through your project. For example: The inclusion of how many animals have procedure A on Day 2, followed by surgery B on Day 16, followed by the administration of Drug X on Day 20 and then imaging on Day 22 goes a long way in clearing up potential reviewer questions.

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