

GUIDELINES – September 2006
ISU Institutional Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
<http://www.isu.edu/departments/anmlcare/>

1. Background

IACUC

The Idaho State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) **is responsible for the oversight and evaluation of all animal programs and has the responsibility to ensure compliance by ISU and ISU staff** with federal regulations regarding use of animals in research or education. These regulations include the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Policy Manual and public statements, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and OSHA and EPA regulations.

Primary concerns for the IACUC include:

- (a) ensure that the number of animals used is reasonable (neither too few to yield useful results nor so many that needless suffering occurs)
- (b) research using animals does not unnecessarily duplicate previous research
- (c) animal pain and suffering is minimized, and that animal users have contingency plans for unexpected animal injuries
- (d) animal holding facilities are inspected twice a year
- (e) risk to humans from using animals is minimized
- (f) the investigators have the expertise required to conduct the research, teaching or training protocols

To meet these goals, the IACUC requires ISU personnel using animals to meet two obligations, namely (1) obtaining IACUC approval for your animal-use protocol, and (2) certifying that all animal users have undergone training to educate themselves about the legal and health issues involved in animal use. Please note that “animal use” includes display of animals in classes, dissection of animals in laboratory classes, research in ISU labs, research in off-campus labs by ISU personnel, and field research on animals.

Animal-Use Protocols

Idaho State University faculty must submit an animal-use protocol for IACUC approval before animals can be used in teaching, training or research. The IACUC must ensure that ISU complies with relevant laws and regulations. Your failure to comply could result in loss of federal funding for all animal-related research (not just your projects, but also those of all your colleagues) and personal liability for you. The IACUC’s role is to make sure that your use of animals does not have this unfortunate result. We can also help you procure animals or the substances you need for animal immobilization.

Common protocol problems encountered:

- animal use numbers don’t match throughout
- animal use doesn’t clearly explain what happens to each animal (a flow chart helps)
- techniques are not written for the layperson to understand
- all deviations from standard procedures are not justified clearly
- lack of online LATA training
- the search mode doesn’t address alternatives, pain and stress reduction, and refinements to techniques

More specific information may be obtained by calling the IACUC Chair (Dr. Curt Anderson) at 208-282-5813.

2. Personnel

Dr. Larry Ford is the Institutional Official for Idaho State University's IACUC. Dr. Curt Anderson is the chair of IACUC. The AWF manager is Ms. Mia Nettik. The University veterinarian is Dr. Rena Carlson-Lammers.

3. Access/Security

Authorized Personnel

- Only authorized personnel are given access to ISU animal facilities.
- Only personnel listed on an active animal protocol with a completed personnel statement will be granted access to animal facilities
- All students must display their Bengal card and must be approved through Ms. Mia Nettik

To obtain Facility Access you will need to:

- Have a valid ISU Bengal Card
- Be on an approved animal protocol and have filled out a personnel statement
- Have read and be familiar with the most current version of the protocol that you are working on
- Have completed online training

4. Animals in the classroom

The teaching laboratory is often the first time many individuals experience the use of animals in research. As such, teaching assistants **MUST** demonstrate the proper level of professionalism at all times. This includes:

- Reading and being familiar with the IACUC teaching protocol for that lab
- Following the procedures **EXACTLY** as they are taught to you
- Maintaining the log of controlled substances in the lab
- Properly disposing of animals and biohazard waste
- Be adequately trained to respond to injury (animal bite, needle prick, etc)

Any deviations from the protocol (euthanasia, anesthesia, etc) **MUST** be pre-approved by the IACUC.

5. Training for all users

All users of an approved protocol (PI's, all personnel, TAs involved with teaching labs) must have a signed personnel statement, occupational health document and must have completed at least the Basic Module of the LATA training program. Contact either the IACUC chair, or the AWF manager to complete the training.

6. Occupational Safety and Health

The IACUC is charged with ensuring adequate occupational safety in laboratories (teaching, training, and research), and field sites for all individuals involved with approved IACUC protocols. All users must complete the Occupational Safety and Health form. All facilities are inspected at least twice annually, and the teaching laboratories are inspected much more regularly.

7. Controlled drugs

The use of controlled drugs in animal research requires that drugs be kept in a locked safe or cabinet within a locked room. Drug logs must be kept of all usage. Contact either the IACUC chair, or the AWF manager for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the IACUC Chair, Curt Anderson (208-282-5813) or IACUC member Steve Adkison (208-282-4024) directly. All concerns will be kept strictly confidential.