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IACUC
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
ULAR
University Laboratory Animal Resources
ORRP
Office of Responsible Research Practices

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Reminder Regarding the Proper Euthanasia of Rodents *A Note from the IACUC Chair*

Here at OSU, we have had several instances over the last few months where rodents that supposedly had been euthanized were discovered alive in a freezer. This suggests that a reminder relative to correct use of carbon dioxide for euthanizing rodents is appropriate. Compressed CO₂ gas in cylinders is the only recommended source of carbon dioxide because the inflow to the chamber can be regulated precisely. Animals must

Confirmation of death is required...

be observed during euthanasia to ensure that death is humane. If chambers are used to contain animals during administration of inhalants, the chambers should be clear or have a viewing port. Confirmation of death is required prior to disposal. The IACUC requires a secondary physical method of euthanasia such as creation of a pneumothorax, removal of a vital organ, decapitation, cervical dislocation or exsanguination. Absence of cardiorespiratory function is not considered an appropriate method of confirmation of death for rodents. Neonatal animals are relatively resistant to hypoxia. Exposure to carbon dioxide may not be the best method for euthanasia for these animals. Please consult the new IACUC "*Guideline for CO₂ Euthanasia of Rodents Including Guinea Pigs*" for additional information.

Did You Know?

The new euthanasia policy not only requires a physical method to confirm death in rodents, but all bags must be labeled with the date, your name and name of principal investigator if applicable.

The IACUC requires a secondary physical method of euthanasia...

Resources

Animal Care & Use
Newsletter Online:
[http://orrrp.osu.edu/
iacuc/index.cfm](http://orrrp.osu.edu/iacuc/index.cfm)

IACUC Forms:
[http://orrrp.osu.edu/
iacuc/forms/](http://orrrp.osu.edu/iacuc/forms/)

Protocol Lookup:
[http://orrrp.osu.edu/
plink/](http://orrrp.osu.edu/plink/)

University Laboratory
Animal Resources:
<http://ular.osu.edu/>

Office of Responsible
Research Practices:
<http://orrrp.osu.edu/>

Institutional Biosafety
Committee:
[http://orrrp.osu.edu/
ibc/](http://orrrp.osu.edu/ibc/)

Office of
Environmental Health
and Safety:
[http://www.ehs.ohio-
state.edu/](http://www.ehs.ohio-state.edu/)

Electronic Protocol Submission and Review

Animal researchers will soon be able to submit their protocols on line. Earlier this year, The Ohio State University entered into a contractual agreement with Click Commerce to license use of the company's eResearch Portal software. With this software, the university will automate many research processes of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Institutional Review Boards, and Safety Committees. The benefits of using this new web-based software include shorter processing times, reduced errors and omissions, enhanced collaboration and security, and automated alerts for researchers approaching deadlines. Paper forms will no longer be used after the web browser-based system is implemented. Regardless of location, researchers, staff, and review board members will be able to access research protocols on line. The OSU team is currently customizing the software to support Ohio State specific processes with a goal of rolling out the IACUC and IBC software modules during Fall quarter 2009.

AAALAC Site Visit Due Next Year



AAALAC will be at OSU for their triennial inspection early 2010. AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. AAALAC stands for the "Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care." More than 770 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 29 countries have earned AAALAC accreditation, including OSU, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use. These institutions volunteer to participate in AAALAC's program, in addition to complying with the local, state and federal laws that regulate animal research. Efforts are underway already to prepare for the inspection process which typically lasts 4-5 days and covers all aspects of the animal care and use program. Over the next 10 months, we will be updating the labs on what to expect during the inspection process. Look for more information in the next issue this newsletter.

Did You Know?

You should not conduct any procedure on an animal until it is approved by the IACUC. Ask the Principal Investigator to see the approved protocol.

Look Out – Avoid these Inspection Pitfalls!

Below are a few of the findings noted in investigator laboratories during the latest round of IACUC Semiannual Inspections. Please review these findings as these were the most commonly observed.

- Drugs used as anesthetics, analgesics or for euthanasia in animals may not be used beyond their expiration date. Please keep a close eye on expiration dates for any agents used in animals. Please also remember that controlled substances must be kept in a secured location (e.g. locked drawer) when not in use.
- Clutter (such as laboratory equipment on benches and floors, cleaning equipment left standing in the open) in areas where animals are used and/or housed must be kept to a minimum. Also, animal use areas should be kept free of dirt and debris as much as possible.

Overall, most of the findings were minor and the IACUC would like to thank researchers at OSU for keeping animal use areas in a generally excellent condition.

ORRP Website: Policies



The OSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee policies webpage on the ORRP website has links to all of the policies developed to assist investigators and staff with their research. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis so check back for updates.

Several examples include:

- Mouse Breeding Cages* - recently updated
- Changes to Approved Protocols (Amendments)* - recently updated
- Survival Surgery in Rodents*
- Investigating Concerns/Whistle Blowers*
- Methods of Animal Identification*
- Therapeutic Agents (Anesthesia/Analgesia)*

A full listing of IACUC policies is available at <http://orrrp.osu.edu/iacuc/osupolicies/>.