

Animal Care and Use Regulations: Responding to the Challenges

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Objectives

- Provide a summary of the regulations and guidelines covering animal research.
- Provide an overview of the UCD Animal Care Program
- Share a success story working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Questions

History of Animal Research/Oversight

- 1950- Animal Care Panel, now AALAS
- 1963- The first “Guide”
- 1964- AAALAC arises
- 1965- allegations of pet theft leads to proposed bill to regulate the trade of dogs
- 1966- Life story magazine article gives support to “pet theft” laws and the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Relevant Regulations and Guidelines

- Animal Welfare Act and Regulations- USDA
- 1985 Health Research Act-PHS policy, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
- ILAR- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animal Care
- AAALAC International
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations

- Federal Law
- Covers warm blooded vertebrate animals with the exception of birds, lab mice, lab rats, and ag animals used for ag research
- Mandates an IACUC/ functions
- Requires AV with authority over animal care
- Includes Husbandry standards

Health Research Extension Act/PHS policy

- Public law 99-158 HREA required NIH to establish guidelines for the proper use of research animals
- Led to the PHS policy
- PHS policy incorporated the US Government Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals
- Covers all work that is supported by PHS funds.

The Guide

- Purpose is to assist Institutions with caring for laboratory animals
- Based on performance standards vs. engineering standards
- Is what the name indicates, a guide vs. regulation
- Used as the standard for AAALAC site visits
- Updated version released in 2012

AAALAC

- Private, nonprofit organization promoting humane treatment of animals in science
- “Voluntary” Accreditation, UCOP requires it and some funding entities require it.
- Demonstrates that your facility meets the regulations and standards, consider gold standard in the field

Cal Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Oversee captive wildlife and restricted species
- For research facilities some common restricted species are:
 - Ferrets
 - Gerbils
 - Transgenic aquatic species- e.g., TG Zebrafish
 - Xenopus- African clawed frog
- Issue permits and conduct site inspections

The UC Davis Animal Care Program

- One of the largest in the country
 - Have SOVM, SOM, CNPRC, Ag School, diverse group of wildlife researchers
 - ~1 million sq ft of animal holding and support space
 - Species range from the usual mice, rats, to NHP, giant green sturgeon, even had a herd of water buffalo for a few years.
 - Decentralized management- many departments or PI's maintain their own space
 - ~1350 active animal care protocols

Animal Care Program and other compliance offices

- Hazardous materials- coordination with IBC, RSC, and EH&&S
- MTA- often required for tg animals, is there IACUC approval to bring them in as well?
- NIH awards- is there an IACUC approved protocol for the vertebrate animal work. Grant protocol comparison.
- Legal- help with Public Records request
- Purchasing- Are their purchasing policies set up to prevent animal orders when there is not an active protocol?

A success story working with DF&W

- May 2011 Notice of additional regulations for Restricted Species included:
 - Must report any import/export 10 business days prior to shipping
 - Must report any birth of death 10 business days prior to shipping
 - Emergency action plan for all facilities
- Problem- Our most common species on the permit are Tg zebrafish and frogs which we have in the thousands

F&W continued

Went through the various phases of emotion

- Panic- how will we ever comply
- Denial- this can't apply to us, it did
- Protest- we can't and won't (my name is on the permit so I guess we better)

Started seeing post to the listserv about how people we handling and most were going to submit weekly reports.

F&W continued

- Called F&W to see what they were doing with these report and why they wanted them
- Leaned the process for how these rules are created and how to appeal and change
- AV and IACUC staff started attending F&W commission meetings. Introduced our concerns
- Worked closely with F&W staff to find solution to meet their needs while minimizing impact.
- Tour of our facility

F&W continued

- End Result
 - Got an exemption from the reporting requirement for all research facilities
 - Regulation in progress for inspections by F&W was revised to allow the academic institutions perform inspections
 - Got a seat on the subcommittee so will be more informed/involved in future changes
 - Built a good working relationship with the staff at the F&W

Conclusion

- Like many areas, the regs for animal care and use are complicated
- Our job is to ensure compliance to protect the animals and university
- We should also speak up when things do not make sense to reduce regulatory burden

Questions??
