



Animal Care and Use Program

Policy: Attending Veterinarian Consultation & Veterinary Best Practices

Objective:	To describe the function and role of the Attending Veterinarian in accordance with PHS Policy, the Guide, and AWA
Author:	Attending Veterinarian, Laboratory Animal Resources
Date:	July 26, 2021

Policy

The UNC Charlotte Institutional Official (IO) will appoint an Institutional Attending Veterinarian (AV). The AV will serve on the UNC Charlotte Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The AV shall have graduated from an accredited veterinary school and have appropriate training or experience in laboratory animal medicine and science. In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act and the PHS Policy, and the current *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, the AV shall have direct or delegated program authority and shared responsibility with the IACUC for activities involving animals.

The AV will facilitate the ability of the investigator to perform animal research in a humane manner consistent with all federal requirements. The IACUC relies on the AV for professional judgment in all animal health issues.

The UNC Charlotte Vivarium under the direction of the institution's AV and Director, Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) develop and maintain Animal Care and Use Program Policies ("Program Policies") which serve as the basis for veterinary medical care. The Program Policies are reviewed by the IACUC during the semiannual program review, and specific information on Program Policies can be obtained by contacting the AV / DLAR.

Requirements

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, in accordance with, (9 CFR Ch. 1), Part 2 – Subpart C, 2.31(b)(3)(i)

The AV is required to serve on the IACUC. "At least one shall be a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, which has direct or delegated program responsibility for activities involving animals at the research facility." **2.33(a)(2)** "Each research facility shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use." **2.33(b)(4-5)** "The attending veterinarian shall provide guidance to principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia; and Adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with current established veterinary medical and nursing procedures."

PHS Policy, in accordance with IV A. (3)(b)(1) "one Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, who has direct or delegated program authority and responsibility for activities involving animals at the institution." **IV C. (1)(e)** "Medical care for animals will be available and provided as necessary by a qualified veterinarian."

Procedures

The role of the Institutional Attending Veterinarian is to:

- 1.0 Provide veterinary consultation on the recognition and palliation of pain.
- 2.0 Serve as a member of the IACUC, which will include
 - 2.1 Advise the IACUC on current best veterinary practices as they relate to new procedures or any procedures with the potential to cause pain and distress that cannot be reliably controlled.
 - 2.2 Serve as Designated Reviewer for veterinary issues.
 - 2.3 Serve as a resource for IACUC members, investigators, research associates, post docs, students, technicians, technologists on issues related to animal welfare and current best practices.
- 3.0 Provide adequate veterinary care as outlined in the [American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine \(ACLAM\) Position Statement](#), including, but not limited to:
 - 3.1 Direct or perform procedures to identify disease etiologies.
 - 3.2 Prescribe treatments to treat ill animals.
 - 3.3 Develop programs for quarantine and isolation, monitoring of colony health, and routine vaccinations and parasite control.
 - 3.4 Advise investigators on and assure proper use of methods to relieve or reduce pain and distress including the use of proper anesthesia and analgesia in laboratory animals; discussion of the possible complications related to procedures used, or a disease model proposed; provide a review of the plans for appropriate and timely medical intervention.
 - 3.5 Advise investigators and the IACUC on the appropriateness of specific techniques and methods using animals, and the availability of alternative animal and non-animal models.
 - 3.6 Advise investigators and oversee as necessary oversee pre-surgical preparation, surgical procedures, and postsurgical care of animals and provide care as needed.
 - 3.7 Assure that animals are euthanized when appropriate and in a humane manner.
 - 3.8 Assure that programs for disinfection, housing, nutrition, breeding, and environmental enrichment are appropriate.
 - 3.9 Work with hazards oversight professionals to assure safe use of biologic, radiologic, and chemical hazards.
 - 3.10 Advise the IACUC and health professionals on the occupational health program.

References

[American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine \(ACLAM\) Position Statement](#)

National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2011.

Animal Welfare Act (P.L. 89-544 -1966; amended 1970 [P.L. 91-579], 1976 [P.L. 94-279], 1985 [P.L. 99-198], 1990 [P.L. 101-624]).

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, Public Health Service. [Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#). Washington, D.C.: Department of Health and Human Services. Revised August, 2002.

Revision History

Approved September 24, 2012

Revised September 28, 2015

Re-approved August 27, 2018

Revised July 26, 2021

Administrative changes September 18, 2022