

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY STATEMENT

Facility Inspection & Program Review

Semiannually, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees are required to conduct thorough reviews of facilities and programs. 9 CFR 2.31(c)

- (2) "Review, at least once every six months, the research facilities program for humane care and use of animals"
- (3) "Inspect, at least once every six months, all of the research facilities' animal facilities, including animal study areas"

Animal Welfare Act

A scheduled date will be established by the convened IACUC to conduct the reviews. All members are encouraged to attend; however, a subcommittee will be assigned a specific area to review.

Facility Inspection

The subcommittee will enter the LAF and don appropriate protective clothing. Each animal room, procedure area, and service area is inspected. Particular attention is given to room sanitation and cleanliness, animal health appearance, cage sanitation, and appropriate documentation (cage identification cards, daily husbandry, etc).

Additionally, IACUC subcommittee teams (2 persons minimum) are assigned investigator laboratories and procedural areas. IACUC members may join any subcommittee team during laboratory inspections in addition to their assigned teams. Reviews of all surgical sites, behavioral testing areas, and any animal manipulation locations are assessed. A Laboratory Inspection Form approved by the committee is used to standardize the inspection process.

Program Review

Review of programs may take on numerous approaches, all of which are designed to ensure that practices, procedures, and "programs" are in place to meet the needs of the animals, the science, and regulatory oversight. Program review is modeled after those conducted at the National Institutes of Health (www.nih.gov/grants/olaw/sampledoc).

Other documents are also used to evaluate and assess the program. These include the review of standard operating procedures, learning from previous inspections, review of AAALAC program description, reviews of IACUC minutes, and reports/findings of the USDA, OLAW, and AAALAC.

At the completion of the inspections and review of programs, a written report is generated noting all findings from the review. Reports are reviewed and signed by a majority of the IACUC before forwarding to the Institutional Official. Specific attention must be given to departures from *Animal Welfare Act* provisions. Further, reports must distinguish significant deficiencies from minor deficiencies. A significant deficiency, as defined by PHS Policy and the USDA Animal Welfare Regulations, refers to any facility or program deficiency that is or may be a threat the health and safety of animals or humans. Deficiencies must also contain a reasonable and specific plan and schedule with dates for correcting each deficiency. All deficiencies are recheck for correction.

IACUC Approved 8/21/01
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