

Research Resources

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."....Immanuel Kant

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Research Resources will be sent out to Active Project Directors, but I encourage you to share this will all your staff, and, if any want to be included in the mailing, have them send a request to stacy.wells@louisville.edu. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, you may send your items to the same address.

APHIS Requests Comments for Approval of Information Collection from Peer Reviewers

On April 19, APHIS announced that comments are sought for the approval of information collected from peer reviewers for agency scientific documents. The agency is seeking comments pursuant to an OMB agency directive stating that all agencies utilize meaningful peer review for the "most important science information disseminated by the Federal Government to the public." APHIS has developed and is using a standard letter to send to a "prospective peer reviewer." This letter asks whether the reviewer may have a "conflict of interest related to the review of a specific scientific document," and if not, the agency requests them to sign a form certifying such. APHIS is requesting a three year approval from OMB for the use of the letter and certification form. This announcement is located in Vol. 71 Federal Register No. 75, page 20067, April 19, 2006 and can be viewed by submitting a search at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Comments are due by June 19. To submit comments electronically visit <http://www.regulations.gov> and select Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service from the agency drop-down menu.

IACUC Policy

Hazardous Chemical Review and Approval

Upon receipt of a *Proposal* declaring the administration of hazardous chemicals to animals, including volatile anesthetic agents, the IACUC Coordinator will compose an e-mail note containing the following information: IACUC number, title of the *Proposal*, Principal Investigator (PI) and department, list of declared hazardous chemicals administered to animals, and PI contact information (e-mail and phone number). This e-mail will be sent to the DEHS Laboratory Safety Coordinator or to a DEHS service account for review.

The Laboratory Safety Coordinator will check the Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) database to determine if the PI has a CHP on file and verify that Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for any highly hazardous chemicals declared in the proposal have been reviewed and approved.

The Laboratory Safety Coordinator will forward an e-mail to the PI, informing him/her of any compliance gaps and directing them to a special web page detailing the requirements for the CHP, chemical inventory, SOP's, Special Animal Safety Protocols (SASP's), and scavenging of waste anesthetic gases, as applicable. A record of this communication will also be copied to the IACUC Office.

Completed CHP's will be assigned approval reference numbers in the CHP database. Once the Laboratory Safety Coordinator has all of the required documents and information from the PI (CHP's, SOP's, SASP's, etc.) s/he will reply to the IACUC Coordinator's original e-mail with the approval number.

Since DEHS will not read the IACUC *Proposals* directly, the IACUC reviewers must pay particular attention to identify any potentially hazardous chemicals not identified in the declaration section. Reviewers must forward such information to the IACUC Coordinator as quickly as possible for transmittal and to DEHS and review by the Laboratory Safety Coordinator.

Harmonization of Animal Care and Use Guidance

Science, May 5 - Societal expectations for improvements in the health of humans and animals require scientific studies involving the use of animals. At the same time, the public is concerned about the welfare of animals used in science. Animal welfare is also of importance because of the link between healthy, well-cared-for animals and sound science. To request a copy of this article please e-mail me at stacy.wells@louisville.edu.

New AALAS Journal Submission Sites

AALAS has switched online manuscript submission sites from AllenTrack to ScholarOne, Effective May1, 2006. For Comparative Medicine submissions go to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aalas-cm>. For the Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (JAALAS) submissions go to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aalas-jaalas>.

When you go to the new submission site you will have to enter your e-mail address into the Password Help section on the right side of the screen. You will then be e-mailed your password to log into the system. Once you log into the system you can update your account information and personalize your login information.

All manuscripts already submitted through AllenTrack will continue to be processed through that submission system. You will still be able to log in with your AllenTrack login name and password. All new submissions will have to be submitted

through ScholarOne. If you have questions or problems contact the AALAS editorial office at journals@aalas.org.

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 7th ed.

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, also known as "The Guide," is not only the basis for [AAALAC International](#) accreditation, but is also central to the Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The *Guide's* recommendations carry the force of law based on the Health Research Extension Act passed by Congress in 1985.

The *Guide* is intended to assist IACUCs, researchers, and veterinarians in fulfilling their obligation to plan, conduct, and oversee animal experiments in accordance with the highest scientific, humane, and ethical principles. The *Guide* makes recommendations for humane animal care and use based on published data, scientific principles, expert opinion, and experience with methods and practices proven consistent with high-quality, humane animal care and use.

Written in general terms, the *Guide* emphasizes performance goals--not engineering approaches.

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Contact: [National Academies Press](#) at www.nap.edu

Phone: 888-624-8373 or 202-334-3313

Fax: 202-334-2451

International Translations

The *Guide* is recognized worldwide as a resource for laboratory animal research facilities. Currently, the [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), and [Taiwanese](#) versions of the *Guide* can be read and ordered online.

IACUC Protocol Submission

Did you know that the IACUC has a website? This site is designed to give both the seasoned investigator and new facility

member current information on the charge and operation of the IACUC. Included are contact names of the Chair and the IACUC Coordinator. On-line access to IACUC Policies, Federal regulations, accrediting agencies, and other sources of information are highlighted. Also available are current versions of IACUC forms.

Recently the IACUC has begun electronic review of research proposals. If you convert your proposal into a PDF file and e-mail it to the IACUC office at IACUC@louisville.edu it will greatly improve the speed of the review process. Please do not forget to scan in the signature sheet or, as an alternative, fax or mail it to the IACUC office.

New ALL Courses

Two new courses are available on the AALAS Learning Library (ALL) bringing the total number of courses to 113. "Writing an Animal Protocol for Research on Swine" is the newest module in the course series on the preparation of an animal use protocol. This course is found in the Regulatory and IACUC Compliance Track in the Writing an Animal Protocol area of study and in the Free Courses track. The first seven lessons are similar in all of the Writing Animal Protocol courses. Differences in these lessons relate mainly to the regulatory coverage, housing requirements, and the zoonotic hazards of each animal species. Lessons 8-15 present information that is more specific to each animal species, such as biological features, anesthetic doses, and biomethodologies. The course, which offers 1.5 CEUs upon completion, was produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Working with Laboratory Animals project under the leadership of Dr. Brent Swenson. "Team Building" is based on material provided by Robert Beck and Lisa Bittles of Purdue University. This course provides an overview of the team building process, what it takes to be a successful team member, and the skills needed to become an effective team leader. This course is one of two courses in the Time and Project Management track and offers 1 CEU upon completion.

Reach Out! Presentation Ice-Breakers

By Jill Worley, BSEd, RLATG, AALAS Community Services Coordinator

With spring just around the corner, many AALAS members are being asked to participate in community outreach programs or to give a presentation at their child's school. It can sometimes be difficult getting your presentation going. The students may need a little warming up to get in a critical thinking mode. See if some of these ice-breakers might be of use:

- Compare and contrast pets outdoors in Florida in the winter versus outdoors in Alaska in the winter. Reverse the season to summer for a different discussion. Bring into the discussion how animals in research are maintained in a constant, healthy environment.
- Compile a list of movies or television shows that show or describe animals used in research in one way or another. As a group, have everyone talk about their impressions of each movie's message. What were the movies trying to say about the use of animals in research? Ask the students whether or not they agree and why.
- Go around the room and have each student complete this sentence: "If I were a biomedical researcher, I'd find a cure or treatment for _____." Each student should try to name a different disease or medical condition. Tell the kids about a disease you would cure and why.
- Ask all the students what their favorite zoo animals are. Discuss how research keeps these animals healthy, how reproductive research may save many from extinction, and how environmental enrichment keeps them happy.
- Write down on the board or overhead the scientific names of several common lab animal species. Discuss nomenclature formatting rules. Give the kids a lesson in pronunciation of the names. Be sure to include *Homo sapiens* as most kids are familiar with that one!

You can probably think of other similar topics to bring up as ice-breakers. In most cases, once the kids get thinking about health-related issues and research, they will be more receptive to your presentation and will even participate in discussions. For a list of similar activities, go to www.aalas.org/pdf/tfl-rousers.pdf. These “research rousers” are a great way for teachers and for AALAS members to integrate laboratory animal science into the classroom setting. “Research rousers” are part of the Together for Life classroom calendar/poster—one of many outreach materials funded by the AALAS Foundation. The AALAS Foundation’s mission is to support educational outreach on the essential role of responsible laboratory animal care and use in science to advance human and animal health. Learn more at <http://foundation.aalas.org>.

Choosing the Right Foster Dam

By Leah Curtin, BS, CVT, RLATG, Small Animal Program Manager, Genzyme, Cambridge, MA

Neglect, abandonment, cannibalism—these are words that all colony managers fear, especially when companies or academic institutions spend thousands of dollars pairing mouse X with mouse Y in hopes of producing that genetically “perfect” offspring for the investigator. Breeding these four-legged creatures has become more challenging with the increased use of transgenic and knock-out strains. Many of these specialized individuals have small litters or are just generally poor parents. When these conditions arise, consider the use of a foster mother to successfully rear the pups. A foster mother may also be used to enable the transgenic female to mate again more quickly. When choosing a strain to use as the foster dam, there are a few things to consider—coat color, litter size, milk production, historical parenting behavior, availability of resources, and the nature of the work being conducted.

Coat Color

Select a foster mother whose coat color is distinct from the pups; i.e., agouti dam to a non-agouti litter of pups to clearly identify her as a foster not raising her own litter.

Litter Size/Milk Production

The litter size and milk production can also impact fostering. If the transgenic litter is

small and the foster litter is large, two specialized litters to one foster dam may be arranged. This will also require fewer foster animals; however, if a large transgenic litter with a foster dam is not producing enough milk, the pups may not survive.

Parenting Behavior

Parenting behavior is probably the most vital consideration. If the foster female cannibalizes the fostered litter, all efforts and resources will be wasted. Individual project goals need to be evaluated to determine which strain will produce the best results. If the fostered pups need daily manipulation, select a calmer strain, (e.g., BALB/c), over a more aggressive strain (CD1).

Resources

Remember, fostering creates the need for additional time and resources. Prior to fostering, make sure all areas of breeding and production; i.e., fertility of breeders, light cycle, noise levels, enrichment/nesting material, tech handling. Use any and all resources available—consult colleagues, post emails on CompMed (compmed@listserv.aalas.org), or contact the vendors about the various strains and “tricks of the trade.” If possible, try a couple of different scenarios to see what works best for your colony.