Animal Research at UTHealth

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Assistant Director, IACUC
Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) Office

https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research
What is an IACUC?

• The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
  • Known locally as the Animal Welfare Committee or AWC
  • Ensures that all vertebrate animals used for research are treated ethically and humanely.
• Members include:
  ➢ Veterinarians
  ➢ Practicing scientists experienced in animal research
  ➢ Non-scientists
  ➢ Non-affiliated members
Animal Care Regulations

Animal Welfare Act (AWA)
Public Health Service (PHS) Policy

Federal Agencies
(USDA-APHIS, NIH-OLAW)

-The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
-American Veterinarians Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
-AAALAC Accreditation Program

AWC, Veterinarians, Researchers

Animal Welfare & Safety
When is an AWC animal protocol required?

- Covers all animal activities performed at UTHealth facilities
- All animal activities, even off site, where UTHealth funds are used to purchase the research animals
- Production of custom antibodies
- Tissue harvest protocols with antemortem manipulations
Requirements to conduct research

• Approved animal protocol-PI must be a faculty member
• Completion of CLAMC training
• Enrollment in Occupational Health Program
• Approval for the use of chemical, biological or radioactive agents
  – SCRO approval for the use of human stem cell in animals
• Disclosure of Research Conflicts of Interest
• Submission of the annual Financial Disclosure Statement
Animal Protocol Submission
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research

https://iris.uth.tmc.edu

Resources for Animal Researchers

- Investigator Training
- iCARE Resources

iRIS Links

Animal Research FAQs
AWC Considerations for Animal Use

• The rationale provided for using animals
  • What is the significance of this research that can justify animal use?

• Appropriateness of the species
  • Why use this species? Justification for the number of animals to be used

• Were alternatives considered for this research?
  • Minimize the pain and suffering of the animals used
  • Adequacy of training and experience of personnel
  • Description and rationale for anticipated or selected endpoints
AWC website resources-Policies for Animal Research
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research

Resources for Animal Researchers

Policies for Animal Research
- Occupational Health Program for Personnel with Animal Exposure
- Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns
- Contact Us

- Non-pharmaceutical Grade (NPG) Compound Policy
- Rodent Surgery Policy
- Rodent Toe Clipping Policy
- Rodent Tumor Policy
- Standards for Sanitation Policy
- Tissue Collection in Rodents for Genotyping Policy
- Tribromoethanol Policy
AWC website resources-Policies for Animal Research
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research

Resources for Animal Researchers

iRIS Links
Animal Research FAQs
Grant Guidance
Protocol Guidelines and Meeting Dates

Animal Research FAQs

Questions for the Animal Welfare Committee? Contact us at 713-500-3625 or via email awc@uth.tmc.edu.

- Who can be the Principal investigator on a protocol?
- Where can I find the animal protocol application?
- How do I make an amendment/change to my already approved animal protocol?
- How do I get access to iRIS?
- When are protocol applications due?
- When do I have to renew my animal research application?
- How do I add new personnel to my protocol?
- Where do I find information about animal training courses?
- How do I obtain CLAMC animal resource facility access?
- How do I add a title or new Grant agency to my protocol approval letter?
- Who can I contact with questions regarding animal protocols?
### Forms and Resources

**Resources for Animal Researchers**

**Forms and Resources**

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<th>Number of mice needed for experiments</th>
<th>Years remaining in project</th>
<th>Sexes needed</th>
<th>Surplus mice</th>
<th>% of useable genotypes</th>
<th>Average pups per litter</th>
<th>Average litters per female</th>
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[AWC website resources-Breeding Calculator](https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research)
Protocol Review Timeline

Application received

Preliminary Review

Revision Cycles

Protocol sent to committee

Revision Cycles

Committee issues decision
AWC website resources
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research

**Resources for Animal Researchers**

- Protocol Guidelines and Meeting Dates
- AWC Review Fees
- Forms and Resources
- Policies for Animal Research

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What happens post-approval?

- Post-approval monitoring visits
- Amendments
  - New personnel, new strains, experiments & procedures
- Report adverse events & protocol deviations
- 3-year renewal
## Grant Guidance

**Application Information**

- AAALAC Accreditation Current Status and Date: Full Accreditation (Unit 000455), March 1, 2021.
- Original date of AAALAC accreditation: May 31, 1978
- PHS Assurance Number: A3413-01 or D16-00257, either number is acceptable
- USDA Registration Number: 74-R-0068
- NIH Guidance for Completion of the Vertebrate Animal Section for [grants](#) and [contracts](#).
- Description of the Animal Care and Use Resources and Program is provided on the [CLAMC](#) link.
Grant Congruency-Does the AWC protocol match the grant?

• Satisfy the requirements of the PHS Policy & NIH grants policy
  - General scope of the work
  - Experimental procedures and endpoints
  - Species
  - Approximate number of animals
  - Euthanasia Method

• Grant animal activities ≠ Animal Protocol Activities
  - Amend protocol to be consistent with grant
  - Inform NIH if procedure will not be conducted as originally proposed
Typical Timeline for Grant Submission

- Grant Submission
- Grant Review Assignment
- Peer review
- Priority Score
- Congruence Review
- Congruence Review
- JIT
- Grant Award
Contact Information

AWC Office: (713) 500-3625, awc@uth.tmc.edu

AWC website: https://uth.edu/animal-research/

CLAMC main line: (713) 500-7728, acare@uth.tmc.edu

iRIS helpline: (713) 500-7960, option #2