Animal Research at UTHSCCH

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Director, IACUC
Animal Welfare Committee 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
• Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals
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
## Resources for Animal Researchers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies for Animal Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Health Program for Personnel with Animal Exposure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns</td>
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<td>Contact Us</td>
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</table>

- Non-pharmaceutical Grade Compound (NPG) Policy
- Prolonged Restraint Policy
- Rabbit Environmental Enrichment Policy
- **Rodent Survival Surgery Policy**
- Rodent Tail Clipping Policy
- Rodent Toe Clipping Policy
- **Rodent Tumor Policy**
### Forms and Resources

#### Resources for Animal Researchers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strain</th>
<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>
<th>Total number per strain (incl surplus)</th>
<th>Total number for breeding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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Contact: forces@uth.tmc.edu
Protocol Review Timeline

1. Application received
2. Preliminary Review
3. Revision Cycles
4. Protocol sent to committee
5. Revision Cycles
6. Committee issues decision
## Resources for Animal Researchers

### Protocol Guidelines and Meeting Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Initial Submission Date</th>
<th>Return Responses to Pre-Review by</th>
<th>For Review on (AWC meeting)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 2023</td>
<td>October 16, 2023</td>
<td>October 27, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25, 2023</td>
<td>November 6, 2023</td>
<td>November 17, 2023</td>
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<td>December 4, 2023</td>
<td>December 15, 2023</td>
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<td>January 3, 2024</td>
<td>January 15, 2024</td>
<td>January 26, 2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31, 2024</td>
<td>February 12, 2024</td>
<td>February 23, 2024</td>
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[AWC website resources](https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research)
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.
### Resources for Animal Researchers

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<td>Animal Research FAQs</td>
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<td><strong>Grant Guidance</strong></td>
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If the animal work proposed in the grant is already covered by an approved AWC animal protocol.

If the research goals and animal procedures proposed in the grant is mostly covered by an approved AWC Animal Protocol for the same species of animals but with some variations (anesthesia, experimental groups, strains of animals, euthanasia methods, etc).

If the animal work proposed in the grant is not covered by an approved AWC Animal Protocol.

If some or all of the animal work proposed in the grant is to be conducted at another institution.
AWC website resources-FAQs
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research

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?
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How do I add a title or new Grant agency to my protocol approval letter?

You will need to complete an “AWC - Change request form” in iRIS and attach a copy of your grant submission [Face Page, Research Strategy and VAS]. All of the experiments described in your grant must be listed in an approved protocol in order for the new title to be added. If there are experiments in the grant that do not match the animal research protocol, then you will need to add those experiments to an existing protocol by including them in your change request or provide an explanation for the omission. Even if there are no discrepancies, a change request form should be submitted to add the new title and granting agency. Along with the completed form, you will need to attach a copy of the grant to your iRIS submission. Multiple grants may support a single protocol. Alternatively, experiments from a single grant may be approved on multiple AWC protocols. Contact the AWC office for assistance.
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
  − Euthanasia Method
  − Approximate number of animals

• 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