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## Why are inspections required?

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is tasked with oversight and evaluation of the animal care and use program and its components. This responsibility includes the semiannual inspection of all facilities housing live, vertebrate animals for research or teaching as well as any study areas to which a live animal may be taken. Inspection requirements are established by UGA's federal regulators within the following

- [Animal Welfare Act](#)
- [Health Research Extension Act of 1985](#)
- [U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training](#)
- [Public Health Service \(PHS\) Policy](#)



The UGA spaces which require semiannual review include but are not limited to URAR managed animal facilities, satellite facilities, surgical suites, and any locations to which live animals are taken, as well as any vehicle used to transport animals.

**Please note**— lab spaces to which animals will be taken must be listed on an approved Animal Use Protocol (AUP) as well as inspected by the IACUC prior to use. To add a space to your protocol, please submit an amendment in Artemis. Information for working in Artemis can be found on the [Artemis Help Page](#).

## What's in it for you?

IACUC Inspections are a great opportunity to enhance communication between the research team, animal care staff and the IACUC. These inspections are beneficial in identifying good performance, areas for improvement, and in preparing you for inspections by external regulation and accreditation bodies, such as USDA and AAALAC respectively. While the IACUC is your oversight, we are also your advocate. We want to know how things are going, and how we can help you achieve the best research possible.

Typically, inspections are scheduled with the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) several weeks in advance. Once a meeting time and place have been established, it's time to prepare. Notable elements of a successful IACUC inspection include attention to:

- Environmental conditions and husbandry of animals
- Training (and documentation) of individuals in the laboratory
- The storage and expiration dates of pharmaceuticals
- Appropriate and available recordkeeping for husbandry and experimental or surgical procedures including post-operative records
- General laboratory and facility maintenance
- Working knowledge of and compliance with approved Animal Use Protocol (AUP)

## What to Expect?

On the day of an inspection, the PI or a senior member of the lab should be available onsite to answer any questions inspectors may have. If any members of the lab would like to be present, we encourage them to stop by and say hi.

[The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), the [Ag Guide](#) and [UGA IACUC policies and guidelines](#) are the criteria used for evaluation on inspections. A helpful checklist that identifies particular requirements from *The Guide* which will be evaluated can be found [here](#). This checklist was developed by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), who administers UGA's assurance with PHS Policy. Inspectors may take notes during the inspection to facilitate the reporting process. Any items or situations found to be out of compliance with the documents listed above are referred to as deficiencies. Identified deficiencies will be communicated to you during the inspection and again at an exit briefing, as applicable. This briefing is an open discussion in which personnel and inspectors can address deficient items or enhancements to the lab/facility.

After the inspection, an inspection report is drafted. Within the report, deficiencies are categorized as major or minor, as they relate to animal welfare and personnel safety. In addition to detailing deficiencies, the report lists corrective action plans and schedules for correction. It is reviewed by IACUC members at the monthly IACUC meeting. Once finalized, the report is sent to the corresponding Administrative Official (i.e. your department head or dean) and designated personnel. A response to this report describing what corrective actions have been taken is required within 30 days of the Report Date per [IACUC Policy](#).

## What's trending?

Data from inspections is collected to identify commonalities and trends in types of deficiencies. At times these data are evaluated by facility type as either farm, lab, URAR, or satellite facilities. In the first half of 2018, the most frequently cited deficiency types included the following:

- **Expired Materials**  
In order to ensure safe and efficacious use, materials should be used or discarded before reaching the expiration date.
- **Medical and Surgical Records**  
Recordkeeping is an integral part of conducting sound animal research. Clear and available records serve to explain the condition of the animals to the animal care staff and inspectors. A sedated animal may be thought to be ill if an explanation is not provided within the medical record. Records also serve to assure animal care staff and inspectors that the animal is being cared for. Additionally, records inform the animal care staff how recently a researcher has seen the animal. This knowledge is useful when determining whether to contact the investigator about the current condition of an animal.
- **Facility Maintenance and Construction**  
This deficiency type includes physical plant items such as unsealed penetrations, cracks in walls or floors, loose boards on fences, etc. It is important that facilities are maintained in good condition so that they may be cleaned appropriately and provide quality shelter to our animals.

If you have questions about how deficiencies are determined or would like to know more about the inspection process, please email us at [iacuc@uga.edu](mailto:iacuc@uga.edu).



## A word from the IACUC Chair

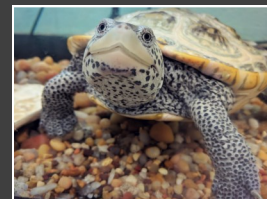
### TISSUE COLLECTION FOR GENOTYPING MICE.

Confusion about tissue collection for genotyping exists among investigators on campus. The IACUC routinely approves 3 types of biopsy for genotyping mice. First is the collection of tissue from the ear. Using a 2 mm ear punch or taking a notch from the margin of the ear is recommended, and does not require the use of anesthetics or analgesics. This has the advantage of being used as identification as well. The second method is tail biopsy. A 1-2 mm biopsy of the tip of the tail should be sufficient. By postnatal day 14 pain perception in the tail of rodents is evident. Therefore, it is best practice to perform tail biopsy before 14 days of age, and if tail biopsy is performed after 14 days of age, appropriate anesthesia should be utilized. Anesthesia is required over 21 days of age. The third method is removal of the distal phalanx (toe clip). This procedure should be performed before postnatal day 8 as evidence suggests there is minimal pain and distress before this point. The distal third of the digit is removed with sharp scissors and should be limited to removal of the digit from the hindpaws. No more than 1 digit should be removed. Like ear punches, this technique can also be used to identify pups.

As with all techniques, proper training is essential. If you are unfamiliar with these techniques please contact the URAR veterinary staff for training.

## Inspections Update

- 10/11 J Phil Campbell
- 10/16 Four Towers
- 10/23 Biology and Psychology
- 10/24 RBC
- 10/24 Pharmacy Labs
- 10/25 Coverdell
- 10/26 Life Sciences
- Upcoming in November: North Georgia, Natural History Museum, Poultry Research Center, Double Bridges



## Announcements

- **UPDATED POLICIES:** The following policies have been updated: [Transport, Food and Fluid Regulation](#), and [Preservation of Animals Affected by a Disastrous Event](#)
- An up to date inspection schedule can now be found on the [IACUC website](#)
- Sharps Training is now required for all personnel on Animal Use Protocols. This module can be found within the [Professional Education Portal \(PEP\)](#)
- If you have an idea for a newsletter or town hall topic you'd like to see, please let us know by emailing [iacuc@uga.edu](mailto:iacuc@uga.edu).

