



# Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Guidelines

*Note:* These are guidelines and are not meant to replace the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), regulations, or standards.

## Membership of IACUC: 2.31 (a)(b) and 2.33 (a)(3)

- 3+ members appointed by CEO. Includes at least one nonaffiliated person, one veterinarian, and a chair.

## Program Review and Facility Inspection: 2.31 (c)(1) and (c)(2)

- At least once every 6 months by at least two IACUC members.

## Program Review and Facility Inspection Reports: 2.31 (c)(3)

- IACUC majority reviews, signs, and submits to Institutional Official.
- Contains minority view.
- Identifies departures from regulations or standards and reasons.
- Distinguishes significant from minor deficiencies.
- Provides reasonable and specific plan and schedule for corrections.
- Nonadherence to plan of correction for significant deficiencies reported within 15 business days to APHIS and any Federal funding agency.

## Review/Investigate Complaints About Animal Care: 2.31 (c)(4)

- Complaints may be from the public *or* from facility personnel [refer also to 2.32 (c)(4)].

## Recommendations Concerning Animal Care Program: 2.31 (c)(5)

- To Institutional Official about animal care and use program, facilities, or personnel training.

## Review of Protocols: 2.31 (c)(6) and 2.31 (d)(1–5) and (e)

- Review of ongoing protocols no less than once a year.
- All IACUC members given list of proposed protocols prior to review.
- Full committee (quorum) can be convened at request of *one* member.
- IACUC reviewer must have no conflict of interest with protocol.
- May use nonvoting consultants.
- No study is to begin before IACUC review and approval.

## Review Significant Changes to Approved Protocol: 2.31 (c)(7) and (d)(8), 2.31 (e)

- IACUC must preapprove significant changes to protocol.

**Authorization To Suspend a Protocol:  
2.31 (c)(8) and (d)(6), 2.32 (d)(7)**

- IACUC can suspend approved protocol with majority vote of convened quorum.
- Report suspensions to APHIS and any Federal funding agency.

**Field Study Exemption From Protocol and Facility Review: 2.31 (c)(2) and (d)(1)**

- Part 1 defines field study as using free-living wild animals in natural habitat without invasive procedures, harm, or altering of behavior.

**Assurances and/or Statements Required in Written Protocols: 2.31 (d)(1) and (e)**

*All Proposed Animal Activities*

- Procedure does not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments.
- Animals' living conditions are appropriate.
- Medical care is available for the animals. (also 2.33)
- Qualified and trained personnel are involved with procedures. (also 2.32)
- Discomfort, distress, and pain are minimized.
- If used in two major surgeries, animal is not allowed to recover (unless justified).
- Description of preoperative and postoperative care.
- Survival surgery is conducted aseptically in dedicated facilities.
- Rationale for species and number of animals.
- Rationale for using animals.
- Complete description of proposed use of the animals.
- Complete description of procedures designed to assure that discomfort and pain are minimized.
- Complete description of method of euthanasia.

*All Proposed Animal Activities With Potentially Painful Procedures 2.31 (d)(1)(i-iv)*

- Discomfort, distress, and pain are minimized.
- Method used, alternative information sources searched with a written list of parameters used for the search.
- Procedure does not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments.
- Use of proper drugs for relief of pain/distress. No paralytics without anesthesia.
- Attending veterinarian is involved in planning. (also 2.33)

**IACUC Records: 2.35 (a)(1-3)**

- Minutes, proposed activities or significant changes, approvals or disapprovals of protocols, and semiannual reports with recommendations.

**Exceptions to Regulations and Standards: 2.36 (b)(3)**

- IACUC-approved exceptions to regulations and standards attached to annual report (APHIS Form 7023).

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