



IACUC Newsletter

May 2013 (Reissued)

Vol. 1, Issue 1 Change in Procedures, Transport of animals, and Monitoring

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the University of Colorado at Boulder has decided to distribute periodic newsletters to principal investigators and key personnel in order to provide essential guidance for meeting the regulatory requirements for the care and use of vertebrate animals in research. The newsletters will contain important updates to the animal care program, reminders of regulatory requirements, and general continuing education on the care and use of animals in research.

Change in procedures: All procedures involving vertebrate animals, including the location of procedures, must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC before starting the procedures. If you plan to make any changes after the initial approval, submit an addendum to the IACUC to review and approve before starting the new procedure. If you are unsure of whether an addendum needs to be submitted, please contact the IACUC Administrator at 303-492-8187.

Suggestions to ensure that procedures are on an IACUC protocol:

- 1) Consult with the principal investigator and read the protocol before starting any procedures.
- 2) Before conducting any new procedures or making changes to an approved protocol, submit an addendum or new protocol to the IACUC for review.

Transport of mice: Take the necessary steps to minimize the risk of spreading pathogens. In accordance with The [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), “All transportation of animals, including intra-institutional transportation, should be planned to minimize transit time and risk of zoonoses...”

Before transporting rodents from an animal facility and returning them to that facility:

- 1) There must be approval from the IACUC
- 2) Contact the animal facility manager before returning animals to the facility to verify that the standard operating procedure will be followed. A quarantine period may be required.

Personnel entering animal facilities: ensure that you are following the proper procedures for decontamination before entering a rodent facility to prevent the spread of pathogens, especially if you work in two different animal facilities. If you are unsure of the facility procedures, please contact the animal facility managers.

Monitoring and medical care of animals: All vertebrate animals must be monitored for signs of illness, injury, or abnormal behavior by a person trained to recognize such signs at least daily, including weekends and holidays, as outlined in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the *Guide*). Institutions that receive federal funds are required by the [Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) to follow the [Guide](#). More frequent monitoring should be in place for animals during post-operative recovery or when animals are undergoing procedures that may increase their chances of illness or physical deficit such as tumors or self-mutilation. The animal care staff in the animal facilities and the Institutional Veterinarian should be aware of these on-going experiments to help ensure proper monitoring and medical care. The Institutional Veterinarian should be promptly notified of any unexpected deaths, illness, distress or other deviations from normal in animals.

UCB.Veterinarian@colorado.edu