Animal Care and Use Regulations: Responding to the Challenges

Alan Ekstrand, B.S., LATG, CPIA
UC Davis IACUC Administrator
Dr. Victor Lukas, DVM, DACLAM
UC Davis Attending Veterinarian

Objectives

• Provide a summary of the regulations and guidelines covering animal research.
• Provide an overview of the UCD Animal Care Program
• Share a success story working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife
• Questions

History of Animal Research/Oversight

• 1950- Animal Care Panel, now AALAS
• 1963- The first “Guide”
• 1964- AAALAC arises
• 1965- allegations of pet theft leads to proposed bill to regulate the trade of dogs
• 1966- Life story magazine article gives support to “pet theft” laws and the federal Animal Welfare Act.
Relevant Regulations and Guidelines

- Animal Welfare Act and Regulations- USDA
- 1985 Health Research Act-PHS policy, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
- ILAR- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animal Care
- AAALAC International
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations

- Federal Law
- Covers warm blooded vertebrate animals with the exception of birds, lab mice, lab rats, and ag animals used for ag research
- Mandates an IACUC/ functions
- Requires AV with authority over animal care
- Includes Husbandry standards

Health Research Extension Act/PHS policy

- Public law 99-158 HREA required NIH to establish guidelines for the proper use of research animals
- Led to the PHS policy
- PHS policy incorporated the US Government Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals
- Covers all work that is supported by PHS funds.
The Guide
• Purpose is to assist Institutions with caring for laboratory animals
• Based on performance standards vs. engineering standards
• Is what the name indicates, a guide vs. regulation
• Used as the standard for AAALAC site visits
• Updated version released in 2012

AAALAC
• Private, nonprofit organization promoting humane treatment of animals in science
• “Voluntary” Accreditation, UCOP requires it and some funding entities require it.
• Demonstrates that your facility meets the regulations and standards, consider gold standard in the field

Cal Department of Fish and Wildlife
• Oversee captive wildlife and restricted species
• For research facilities some common restricted species are:
  – Ferrets
  – Gerbils
  – Transgenic aquatic species- e.g., TG Zebrafish
  – Xenopus- African clawed frog
• Issue permits and conduct site inspections
The UC Davis Animal Care Program

• One of the largest in the country
  – Have SOVM, SOM, CNPRC, Ag School, diverse group of wildlife researchers
  – ~1 million sq ft of animal holding and support space
  – Species range from the usual mice, rats, to NHP, giant green sturgeon, even had a herd of water buffalo for a few years.
  – Decentralized management- many departments or PI’s maintain their own space
  – ~1350 active animal care protocols

Animal Care Program and other compliance offices

– Hazardous materials- coordination with IBC, RSC, and EH&S
– MTA- often required for tg animals, is there IACUC approval to bring them in as well?
– NIH awards- is there an IACUC approved protocol for the vertebrate animal work. Grant protocol comparison.
– Legal- help with Public Records request
– Purchasing- Are their purchasing policies set up to prevent animal orders when there is not an active protocol?

A success story working with DF&W

• May 2011 Notice of additional regulations for Restricted Species included;
  – Must report any import/export 10 business days prior to shipping
  – Must report any birth of death 10 business days prior to shipping
  – Emergency action plan for all facilities
• Problem- Our most common species on the permit are Tg zebrafish and frogs which we have in the thousands
F&W continued
Went through the various phases of emotion
– Panic- how will we ever comply
– Denial- this can’t apply to us, it did
– Protest- we can’t and won’t (my name is on the permit so I guess we better)

Started seeing post to the listserv about how people we handling and most were going to submit weekly reports.

F&W continued
• Called F&W to see what they were doing with these report and why they wanted them
• Learned the process for how these rules are created and how to appeal and change
• AV and IACUC staff started attending F&W commission meetings. Introduced our concerns
• Worked closely with F&W staff to find solution to meet their needs while minimizing impact.
• Tour of our facility

F&W continued
• End Result
  – Got an exemption from the reporting requirement for all research facilities
  – Regulation in progress for inspections by F&W was revised to allow the academic institutions perform inspections
  – Got a seat on the subcommittee so will be more informed/involved in future changes
  – Built a good working relationship with the staff at the F&W
Conclusion

• Like many areas, the regs for animal care and use are complicated
• Our job is to ensure compliance to protect the animals and university
• We should also speak up when things do not make sense to reduce regulatory burden

Questions??