Office of Animal Research Support (OARS)

Announcements & Reminders

2024-2025 IACUC Deadlines and Meeting Dates

Research Liaison Department Assignments

Investigators are encouraged to submit protocols that are due for 3-year renewal early to allow time for pre-review of the protocol by the research liaisons and veterinarians. This will help expedite the review and approval of the protocol. Should you have any questions, please contact OARS at iacuc@yale.edu.

2023 IACUC Review Holiday Schedule:

The holiday recess schedule falls on 12/22/23 – 01/01/24. If your research needs require a significant modification to be approved before the end of the 2023 calendar year, it must be submitted to the IACUC by the end of the day on Monday, December 18th.

If you currently have a significant modification that is pending which requires approval prior to the holiday/recess, please respond to questions promptly to facilitate the approval of your modification.
Upcoming Facility Inspections

The following facilities will be inspected in January 2024: ESC (satellites), FMB (satellite), LSOG SB, LSOG B, LSOG 2 (satellite), LSOG 4 (satellite), LSOG 5, MEC, OML (satellite), SHM IG/BG (rodent and aquatics), SHM BG (NHPs), SHM 4, TAC, WWW and YSB.

Please contact Shannon Denison if you need further information. As always, please check your spaces periodically to ensure the fulfillment of IACUC expectations. The inspection checklist the IACUC utilizes to document findings is available on the OARS website.

IMPORTANT: If you have locked cabinets, drawers, or boxes that contain drugs or materials with expiration dates, please make sure that they are unlocked for the IACUC to inspect the contents. If you do not want to leave the container unlocked and unsupervised, then the IACUC’s expectation is that you be readily available to open them. Contact Shannon Denison with your contact information and the areas of interest.

Animal Use Locations

This is a reminder that the location(s) for live-animal work conducted outside of YARC-managed facilities must be identified on an IACUC-approved protocol.

For labs that may be relocating or expanding, prior to conducting live-animal work in a new laboratory location, a modification to the protocol must be submitted and approved identifying building, room number and procedure(s) to be performed. This includes but is not limited to survival-surgery, non-survival surgery, euthanasia, behavioral assays, imaging, hazardous agent use, and other procedures performed in the lab.

For any questions, please contact OARS at iacuc@yale.edu or your Departmental Research Liaison.

Veterinary Mandates and Timely Euthanasia

Over the past year, we have documented several non-compliances related to laboratories not meeting veterinary deadlines for euthanizing animals that have been deemed humane concerns or following veterinary treatment orders. Because of the NIH’s requirements, we are obligated to self-report many of these non-compliances to the NIH-OLAW, bringing
negative attention to the university and your federal grants. Every year, we receive notification that animal rights extremist groups FOIA’ed Yale’s correspondences with NIH-OLAW.

We would like to remind everyone of the IACUC’s expectations regarding how sick animals are managed by the researchers, YARC, and veterinary staff.

- Instructions from veterinary staff (VCS technicians) or veterinarians (residents or faculty) are **final**, unless, on a case-by-case basis, alternate plans are agreed upon following a veterinary consult within the allotted time. This includes both treatment plans for sick animals and deadlines for euthanasia.

- Researchers are responsible for promptly addressing any veterinary instructions. If you are unable to follow the instructions within the given timeline, you may request that VCS provide the treatment or euthanize the animal on a fee-for-service basis.

- Researchers are responsible for ensuring that VCS has up-to-date contact information for all animals. The VCS contact list should have a primary researcher and a secondary back-up contact in case the primary researcher is not available. Email Lauren Manfred ([lauren.manfred@yale.edu](mailto:lauren.manfred@yale.edu)), Bridget Skinski ([bridget.skinski@yale.edu](mailto:bridget.skinski@yale.edu)), Laurie Borelli ([laurie.borelli@yale.edu](mailto:laurie.borelli@yale.edu)) or Lyn Patrylak ([lyn.moreau@yale.edu](mailto:lyn.moreau@yale.edu)) and your Research Liaison if contact information needs to be updated.

- It is a reportable non-compliance if veterinary instructions are not followed within the proposed deadline. If the animal’s care is supported by federal funds, Yale may be obligated to report the incident to the granting agency and payback associated grant funds.

- At a minimum, those not abiding by the above expectations will undergo retraining. For repeat offenders, training requirements may be extended to the entire lab, or the **responsible individuals may be prohibited from working with animals**.

Providing appropriate veterinary care is one of the fundamental principles of animal research. Abiding by the above guidance helps us assure that Yale continues to meet its regulatory and ethical obligation to properly care for our animal research subjects.

**Policy Updates/August-October 2023**

**Blood Collection in Mice** – Standard Procedure

- In the “Tail Snip” procedure, line “d,” was updated to now read “Less than or equal to 1mm of the tail tip is excised.”

**Expired Materials**
December 2023
This document describes the following: The use of expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies is not consistent with acceptable veterinary practice or adequate veterinary care. Euthanasia, anesthesia, and analgesia agents may not be used beyond their expiration date, even for terminal procedures.

This policy was reviewed and approved with no changes.

**Satellite Animal Facility**

In the section describing requirements for Satellite Housing and Holding Facilities, all individual requirements were added for clarity. They are the following:

- Daily observation (including weekends and holidays) for health, wellbeing, food, and water.
- Automated lighting control.
- Sanitizable surfaces.
- Secured door by card reader (preferred) or key.
- Integration into the buildings automated environmental monitoring system.
  - The system must monitor temperature, humidity, lighting, and differential pressure. All must be documented daily.
- Designation of emergency lab contacts to be notified via text or email of deviations in expected environmental conditions for alarms at the same time points as YARC facilities.
- If rodent enclosures will be changed (weekly), there must be access to additional ventilation (e.g., fume hood, biosafety cabinet, cage change station).
- Emergency power outlets in the housing room, including emergency power for the HVAC.
- Animal space must have a negative air pressure relative to public spaces.

Satellite holding facilities are required to meet the following standards:

- Daily observation (including weekends and holidays) for health, wellbeing, food, and water.
- Temperature, humidity, and lighting on/off must be documented daily.
- Animal space must have a negative air pressure relative to public spaces.

Breeding is not permitted in rodent satellite facilities but is permitted in aquatics satellite facilities. Cage changing is not permitted in rodent satellite holding facilities.

As always, please contact OARS with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

December 2023
Happy Holidays

~OARS Team