

University of Washington
September 17th, 2020 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present:	AB	JA	KS
	AW	JM	MB
	CM	JPVH	MK
	FRR	JS	ML
	GS	KG	SRH
		KAG	SL

Members Absent: DM

Opening Business

- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by AW.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the August 20, 2020 meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
Further Discussion: *None.*
Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Benefit Story

- Last month, the IACUC Chair updated the committee on some local efforts to develop a vaccine that protects against COVID. This month, the IACUC Chair wants to tell the IACUC about a couple of projects that are focused on helping pets and companion animals during the pandemic.

The Rabinowitz group has initiated a study that tests animals sharing households with COVID patients who are isolating at home. In collaboration with the Washington State Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, the "Coronavirus and Pets Study" is gathering information about contact between humans and animals in the home, assisting with recommendations about social distancing between people and pets, and providing guidelines on what to do if a pet tests positive.

Since the study was initiated in late spring, approximately 25 households and 35 animals have been enrolled, and new households continue to be added. Although still preliminary, early antibody results suggest that some transmission may be occurring between people and their pets, consistent with anecdotal reports that are starting to hit the news.

The Kaeberlein and Promislow groups, who work together on the Dog Aging Project, have been engaging participant dog owners on topics related to COVID and their animals. Although not involved directly in testing, they have been using website blog posts, e-newsletters, and social

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media to keep their participant owners up-to-date on the latest science on COVID and pets, including human to animal transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

Together, these efforts will help us understand how to protect our pets from becoming infected, how to keep them from infecting others, and how to take care of them if they get sick.

Attending Veterinarian's/OAW Director's Report - KS

- Adoptions – 1 gerbil adopted out.
- Training program updates – Additional on-line lessons have been developed and posted. These are to supplement our hands-on training and in person facility orientations. The lessons are engaging rodent cages into racks, performing intraperitoneal (IP) and subcutaneous (SC) injections on a mouse, and mouse restraint. The lesson on CO2 euthanasia in rodents has been updated to reflect the new CO2 flow rate.
- Hoverboard upgrade has been postponed to the first quarter of 2021.
- IACUC metrics- see meeting documents
- Facility issues:
 - Lighting:
 - A research group reported that lights in 1 room were on before 7 am. Light Cycle is 7am ON - 9pm OFF. The building engineer immediately fixed the issue. It appears that the manual override switch outside of the room was activated which caused the lights to stay ON. There have been no further issues noted in this room.

Member entered 2:41 PM

- Brotman facility lighting issue: Facility engineering services began having difficulty producing the daily environmental reports starting in February 2020. As a result, the DCM facility supervisor did not have daily lighting records to review until the system was fixed on 8/31/2020. In addition, the lighting alarms were manually set to activate alarms if the lights did not turn ON but were not set to alarm if the lights did not turn OFF. On the evening of 8/6/2020 a researcher reported that lights were on in P1 at approximately 10 pm. Facility engineers were contacted and came in to manually turn the lights off. Since then the lights have been cycling normally. When DCM was able to retrospectively audit the daily lighting reports, it became apparent that the lights had been ON in P1 rooms in since 3/9/2020. On that day, the light cycles for the P1 rooms did not turn off as scheduled. This malfunction is believed to be a result of the programmed change associated with the start of daylight savings time. Thus, the lights in the P1 rooms had been ON from 3/9/2020 to 8/6/2020. No obvious animal health issues have been identified as a result of this event but there may be impacts to research studies. Researchers have been informed of this event. Corrective Actions: Immediate action was taken to repair of automatic light monitoring report system and reconfigure lighting alarms to activate if lights don't come on or go off at the appropriate times. Additional independent safeguards have

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been established to ensure that lighting cycles in Brotman housing rooms remain as programmed until permanent solutions can be identified. These include placement of HOBO light monitors in select housing rooms on both the phase 1 and phase 2 floors with these monitors audited on a weekly basis, as well as having security guard physically walking the Brotman vivarium shortly after lights off to confirm that each room has shifted to dark cycle appropriately and a written record of these checks provided to the facility supervisor each morning. Longer term corrective actions are to investigate options for the addition of alternative light sensors that can be placed in housing rooms and provide reports/alarms directly to DCM staff. In addition, a monthly meeting will be established between building staff management, DCM management, facility supervisors and Hines technicians to discuss and address ongoing repairs and operational issues.

Committee members asked the DCM representative some follow up questions on this issue. The monthly AV report does include summaries of lighting issues that occur but the committee discussed inclusion of lighting report summaries of all facilities as part of future semi-annual records reviews.

- Protocol Monitoring:
 - Twenty-one total protocols. Of the protocols, 11 involve surgery, two restraint (and sx), one conscious restraint, 1 tumor modeling, 4 miscellaneous (tape skirt, infection, water quality). Eight are inactive right now.
- Adverse Events:
 - Two breeder cages with pups were discovered with no food in the feed hoppers. Fourteen pups were found dead and 5 animals were euthanized. The research group reported that no lab members had handled either cage recently. The cage had last been changed 12 days prior and thus it appears these cages were not noted to be low on feed and feed added by animal care staff. This adverse event occurred in the same facility as others recently reported but each event has involved a different animal care technician. Thus, all animal care technicians in this facility will receive active re-training on conducting daily health checks with the DCM trainer. Reported to OLAW.
 - DCM response to Letter of Counsel:
 - In the event in question, the cage was left unseated and our animal care staff should have noticed it. During the time in question, two animal technicians worked in that space. They both received a reprimand and were retrained on Animal Health Checks. In addition, all animal care staff in that facility will be scheduled for an in-person hands-on animal health check refresher course with the DCM trainer. Finally, DCM will restart the “mystery cage” program that was started last year to heighten the awareness of attention to detail by our staff and the researchers in the facility. In this program, a cage will be put in a room with “fake mice” and with some abnormality (no food, not seated properly, etc.). Anyone who notices the cage on that day receives a reward. Subsequently, if a health check has taken place without the animal care technician noting the cage, then they will be re-trained.

The DCM representative explained the “mystery cage” program in detail and how their goal is to bring increased attention to detail so as to not miss anything. A committee member asked if staffing level is part of the issue. The DCM representative responded that they are staffed appropriately even during the pandemic.

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- 4391-01 - PI response to Letter of Counsel:
 - Lab has discussed and outlined the following guidelines while performing mouse work in the future: Mice will never be left without a water source when cages are removed from the rack watering system and lab members will ensure cages are fully seated when returning them to the rack. When setting up a new cage, lab members will always prime the water valve and when placing the cage on the rack, they will ensure that it is fully seated. For newly-weaned pups, lab members will prime the valve before placing the cage in the rack so that a drop of water is present and provide a gel pack on the cage floor. Lab members will routinely check that each cage is fully seated in the rack and double check before leaving the housing room.
- 4326-02 – PI response to Letter of Counsel:
 - The lab performed a careful review of the knowledge regarding weaning practices. All of research staff in the lab were provided additional training regarding weaning. The PI also met with the group as a whole to discuss prevention of future mistakes such as this. The lab agreed that they will begin using checklists as part of their regular weaning protocol, to prevent errors of inattention in animal care. In addition, they will continue maintaining compliance with all required training for ongoing animal care.
- Non-compliance: None
- From Arizona
 - Facilities items: On 8.24.20, HVAC Unit 1 in the AA Building failed. It took several attempts to rectify the issue. A portable cooler was utilized to mitigate rising temperatures in the affected indoor areas during the shutdown. Temperatures were monitored continuously and some recordings did exceed 85F, but none for more than a 2-hour duration.

Member entered 3:11 PM

- Adverse events: No adverse events to report.

Protocol Review

- None

Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines

- None

IACUC Training

- None

Other Business

- None

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Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:13 pm. The floor was opened to public comment.