

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Teleconference

November 17, 2021

2:00pm

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Ami Ruffing
Dr. Buffy Ellsworth
Dr. Ed Heist
Dr. Erin Perry
Dr. Francisco Agustin Jimenez-Ruiz
Dr. James Lovvorn
Dr. Jennifer Harris
Dr. Karen Jones, Chair
Dr. Lydia Arbogast
Ms. Amanda Ingram
Ms. Debbie Simpson
Ms. Liz Gersbacher

VISITORS

Ms. Chris Massey

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order promptly at 2pm and Dr. Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

REPORT OF ANIMAL ILLNESSES/ISSUES – DR. HARRIS

Dr. Harris provided an overview select items from her animal illness/issues report and stated the full report was available to the committee on D2L, should they want to review it.

Discussion

Dr. Harris reported Calf 144 at the farms was discovered dead with vultures circling above it. A necropsy was not performed because the calf had been ravaged by the vultures. She added that the calf's death brought to light an issue with herd mismanagement at the farms. The calf went missing and went unnoticed by the staff because the posted census was incorrect.

Dr. Harris reported there were deaths that occurred among the sows that were transported onto the farms and gave birth shortly after. One sow died after receiving a C-section, along with some of the piglets. The surviving piglets were reassigned to other sows and appear to be doing well. The farms had also reported on the loss of piglets of other sows. Dr. Harris noted that the cause was likely due to a combination of the apathy of the sows combined with their age.

Dr. Jones commented about the farm staff, noting their communication of animal illness/issues is much improved. However, the number of illness/issues with animals kept on the farm (e.g. Beef and Swine) was still alarmingly high. The farms response to the high number has been to make a personnel addition in the caretaking of the Beef

and Swine herds. Kat is now focusing her attention on the Swine Center and Jake Cartwright has been brought on board to oversee the daily operations of the beef center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON October 20, 2021

Dr. Jones asked for comments on, or corrections to, the minutes of October 20th and did note a few corrections of her own. Items 4 & 5 under the discussion of protocol 21-030 seemed incomplete in their wording and were punctuated by question marks. Ms. Massey replied say those were two items were the complete details were not captured. The details were then provided by Dr. Ruffing and Dr. Jones. Dr. Jones asked the committee then if they preferred to have the corrections made and then be given the opportunity to review the minutes a second time; or if the corrections could be made and committee could approve the minutes at this time.

Dr. Perry moved that the minutes be approved with the corrections noted. Dr. Ed Heist seconded the motion. Dr. Ellsworth abstained from voting, citing that she was not present at the last meeting.

Total Voting =11; Vote: For =10 Opposed = 0 Abstained = 1

REVIEW OF NEW PROTOCOLS BY FULL COMMITTEE

20-034, *Determine the Role of The Septin Cytoskeleton in Aspergillus fumigatus Pathogenesis* by **Jose Vargas-Muniz**

Discussion

The Primary Investigator (PI) Jose Vargas-Muniz was not present in the meeting. Dr. Jones noted the wording contained in the protocol was hard to follow in places. Dr. Perry agreed and said it appeared the PI included the entire content of the Protocol along with the changes he intended to make and that had the effect of obscuring the changes and making it overall hard to identify all the changes he intends to make. Dr. Jimenez and Ms. Gersbacher concurred.

Dr. Perry moved to send the protocol back to the PI to make the noted corrections and then reviewed a second time by full committee. Ms. Arbogast seconded the motion.

Total Voting =11; Vote: For =11 Opposed = 0, Abstained = 0

OTHER BUSINESS

IACUC Policy for Animals Used as Feed Sources

Discussion

Dr. Ruffing presented a draft of the IACUC Policy for Animals Used as Feed Sources to the committee. Recall AALAC inspectors observed an open bag of meal crickets in the basement of LS II with no food source for the crickets contained therein. The inspectors felt providing a measure of quality control for this often-overlooked aspect of animal

husbandry fell under the IACUC mandate, and therefore suggested improvement. Dr Ruffing presented a draft of an IACUC Policy for Animals Used as Feed Sources, to address the care of animals used as feed sources such as crickets, mealworms, and Hyalella. The policy addresses food sources for these animals, the manner in which they are housed and appropriate lighting cycles.

Dr. Lovvorn commented saying he felt the policy is a bit an overreach and goes beyond what the IACUC mandate has been. Dr. Ruffing responded saying this aspect of animal husbandry is covered in the guide and should be addressed by policy. Dr Perry concurred with Dr. Lovvorn and asked what part of the guide references Animals used as feed sources. Dr Ruffing then recited pages 84-85 of the guide where this is addressed. Dr. Jones asked if Dr. Ruffing had performed a review of other universities and their policies concerning this aspect of animal husbandry. Dr. Ruffing responded that she had, and used those policies as a guide for crafting the policy.

Dr. Lovvorn commented that language should be added to the policy to make clear its intent is to benefit the vertebrate consumers of the prey animals and not as a means to manage invertebrate protocols. Dr. Perry added it should also be clear the policy is also intended to maintain the integrity of researchers experiments by providing appropriate housing for prey species, so they do not escape into the environment and give rise to an infestation.

This item was tabled until a revision including the requested changes is presented to the committee.

IACUC Policy for use of Pharmaceutical Drugs

Discussion

Dr. Ruffing presented a draft of a Policy for the use of pharmaceutical drugs. She said the SFI was issued because the AALAC inspectors observed some pharmaceutical grade drugs were being diluted or mixed with other substances, which renders them non-pharmaceutical grade. In these cases, Researchers considered the drugs pharmaceutical grade and therefore did not label them to indicate they were not. She added Researchers must choose pharmaceutical grade products and if non-pharmaceutical grade products are used they must correctly label them. Dr. Jones asked if Dr Ruffing had reviewed similar policies from other universities and Dr. Ruffing responded she had, and used those policies as a guide for crafting this policy.

Dr. Ellsworth moved to approve the policy. Dr Perry seconded the motion.
Total Voting =11; Vote: For =11 Opposed = 0, Abstained = 0

Room Level Temperature and Humidity Monitoring & Restoration of Vivarium Floors

Discussion

Dr Ruffing reported that bids were obtained for both of these SFIs for improvement and that there is a possible source of funding at least for the Vivarium floor restoration of the

Vivarium Floors. She said The Vice Chancellor for Research Compliance told her he is going to get this work onto the list of deferred maintenance projects for the University and that it might be a recipient of some deferred maintenance money coming from state of Illinois.

This item was presented for information only and did not require a committee vote.

Oversight of Cephalopods Used in Research

Discussion

Dr. Ruffing presented this SFI to the committee saying IACUC oversight of cephalopods has come to the fore in recent years in light of new evidence that cephalopods can experience pain and discomfort. A number of universities have developed policies for care and use of cephalopods in response to the new information. She added that many academic journals including those devoted to cephalopod research require publishing academics to provide proof of IACUC oversight in some form before they will accept a paper for consideration or publication. Dr. Ruffing cited an example of an SIU-C researcher who recently was unable to submit a research paper to a journal because of this requirement. She concluded by saying that in the interest of providing service to such researchers IACUC should require individual PIs to submit an SOP indicating their care and use of cephalopods used in their study, and that SOP would be given a protocol number. This would achieve the goal of facilitating publishing by PI's working with Cephalopods.

Dr. Jimenez objected to the idea of providing oversight for individual PIs who are seeking to publish. He felt that primary goal of any oversight should be what is right for the animals (i.e. cephalopods) and not the wishes of individual PIs who wish to publish in journals. Therefore, a mandatory policy for all PIs was necessary. Ms. Gerbacher concurred with Dr. Jimenez on this point.

Drs. Ellsworth, Arbogast, and Heist felt facilitating publishing by PI's working with Cephalopods should be the Primary interest. Dr. Perry felt a compromise could be achieved with an incremental approach where IACUC begins with facilitating publishing for individual researchers, but moving toward a mandatory policy in the future. She also suggested inclusion of external experts in future IACUC meetings to facilitate the mandatory policy development; experts such as the PIs working with Cephalopods and perhaps ethicists.

Dr. Jones suggested the IACUC response to this SFI be that the Committee has come to consensus that oversight will be provided for Cephalopods, but the form of that oversight is not yet known. The Committee will revisit the issue in future meetings, perhaps inviting Ethicists, Researchers working with Cephalopods, as well as other experts to the meetings to provide additional input that will facilitate the form of oversight IACUC will provide.

Next Steps

Discussion

Dr. Ruffing told the committee that the next step in the AALAC process is prepare a post site visit communication to the investigators, indicating what is being done to the address the five suggestions for improvement. The investigators will in turn present the response to the Council on Accreditation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm