
Valdosta State University Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

Standard Operating Procedure Number 006

PROVISION OF VETERINARY CARE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to set forth the standards for adequate veterinary care for animals housed in institutional facilities and/or used in research, testing, and instruction by the Institution's animal users.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATTENDING VETERINARIAN: The Attending Veterinarian oversees animal husbandry and provides necessary veterinary medical care. He/she serves as a voting member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and participates in the review of Animal Use Protocols (AUPs), the inspection of facilities, and the review of the institution's animal care and use program. The Attending Veterinarian fosters and supports enhancement of the program through the identification and adoption of techniques, procedures and policies that improve laboratory animal health and well-being. He/she assists in establishing and monitoring an occupational health program for all animal care workers and others who have substantial animal contact, advises on standards of hygiene for animal care workers, and monitors for zoonotic diseases. Finally, the Attending Veterinarian advises on and monitors biohazard policies and procedures as they apply to research animal care and use.

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN QUALIFICATIONS: The Attending Veterinarian shall:

1. Have earned a doctoral veterinary degree from an accredited school of veterinary medicine;
2. Have knowledge, training, and/or experience in laboratory animal science medicine appropriate to the species utilized by the Institution;
3. Participate in continuing education programs as necessary to stay current in laboratory animal science;
4. Be fully knowledgeable about the current and proposed use of animals in institutional research, testing, and instructional programs; and
5. Have the ability to render professional judgments that are neither influenced nor controlled by institutional interests to the detriment of the laboratory animals.

PROVISION OF ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE: The provision of adequate veterinary care involves the following primary areas of responsibility that shall be addressed as appropriate for the species and procedures involved:

- A. Animal well-being
 1. Monitoring adequacy of the physical plant, caging, and ancillary equipment
 2. Assistance in implementing and monitoring sound animal husbandry programs including such areas as sanitation, nutrition, genetics and breeding, and vermin control

3. Recommending methods to improve and enrich an animal's environment to minimize the development of physical or behavioral abnormalities
 4. Ensuring appropriate opportunities for human-animal socialization and acclimatization to the research environment or procedures
 5. Assistance with the design of experiments in such areas as model selection, collection and analysis of samples and data from animals, and methods and techniques proposed or in use
 6. Participation in the development and implementation of training programs for institutional staff in the care and use of laboratory animals
- B. Disease detection and surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and resolution
1. Isolation, quarantine and stabilization programs for newly arrived animals
 2. Preventive medicine programs and other disease control measures
 3. Daily observation of all animals by a person or persons qualified to verify their well-being
 4. Disease surveillance, including routine monitoring of colony animals for the presence of parasitic, bacterial and viral agents that may cause overt or unobvious disease
 5. Isolation of animals with infectious diseases
- C. Handling and restraint; anesthetics, analgesics and tranquilizer drugs; and methods of euthanasia
1. Guidance to animal users regarding methods of handling and restraint
 2. Monitoring animal use to assure that appropriate methods of handling and restraint are employed
 3. Assistance in the selection and use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizing drugs and euthanasia practices
 4. Monitoring animal use to ensure proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers, and methods of euthanasia
- D. Surgical and postsurgical care
1. Review of all preoperative, surgical and postoperative procedures at the time of protocol review
 2. Use of appropriate facilities for surgical procedures
 3. Assistance in the selection and implementation of surgical procedures
 4. Monitoring preoperative procedures, surgical techniques, and the provision of postoperative care