Georgia State University
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

It is the responsibility of the Georgia State University (GSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its teaching and research programs that is consistent with federal requirements.*

Policy on Medical, Surgical and Research Records

Animal medical, surgical, and research records are a key element of a program of adequate veterinary care as it relates to the animal care and use program. The animal medical, surgical, and research record keeping system delineated herein was developed in congruence with the guidance provided by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (2007. Medical Records for Animals Used in Research, Teaching, and Testing: Public Statement from the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine; ILAR Journal 48(1):37-41).

Medical Records: Regarding the development of spontaneous disease (e.g. disease other than experimentally induced disease such as fight wounds, spontaneous tumors, dental problems, etc.), the relevant animal observations, treatments, and disease outcome (be it disease resolution or euthanasia) are recorded in the electronic Animal Health Check form which includes the medical record. The Animal Health Check medical record is located on the DAR Portal website at https://dar.gsu.edu. The website requires a valid GSU email and password. Should an animal be found to be in need of immediate medical attention (whether or not the disease condition was spontaneous or experimentally produced) and, if the DAR staff is unable to reach a member of the research laboratory, the University Veterinarian is authorized to act on behalf of the animal (treatment or euthanasia). Otherwise, the DAR veterinary staff would make decisions regarding treatment or euthanasia in consultation with the research lab.

A Laboratory Animal Care Record (LACR) (paper form of the medical record) will be associated with each IACUC protocol represented in the animal housing room. The LACR is available for the research staff to record any relevant animal observations, treatments, etc. This record is maintained in the 3-ring binder located in the respective animal room. Blank copies of the LACRs are found in the 3-ring binder and are also found online (http://ursa.research.gsu.edu/ursa/compliance/animal-resources-program/health-record-system/). Should the researcher observe an animal health issue, they can make a notation on the LACR, place a red sticker on the appropriate cage card (red stickers are located in the 3-ring binder located in the respective animal room), and contact the DAR veterinary staff via the Animal Health Check form found at the DAR Portal website (at https://dar.gsu.edu/). Animal Healthcare Technicians (office: 404-413-3594; mobile: 404-709-9910 or 404-908-4933; e-mail: cbillinglsey2@gsu.edu or jscott72@gsu.edu) or the veterinarians (Mike Hart: office: 404-413-3553; mobile: 404-391-7366; e-mail: mhart@gsu.edu or Amelia Wilkes: office: 404-413-3636; mobile: 678-923-0970; e-mail: awilkes5@gsu.edu). Should the laboratory animal technician observe an animal health issue, they place a red sticker on the appropriate cage card, and complete an Animal Health Check form found at the DAR Portal website describing the
observation. In the event of an emergency the laboratory animal technician staff or researcher should contact the above individuals using their mobile phones.

**Surgical Records:** Notations related to the conduct of surgical procedures (whether survival or non-survival) must be recorded on the “Animal Surgical Record.” This record is maintained in the 3-ring binder located in the respective animal room. Blank copies of the Animal Surgical Record are found in the 3-ring binder and are also found online (http://ursa.research.gsu.edu/ursa/compliance/animal-resources-program/health-record-system/). This record may reflect the surgery of a single or multiple animals on a given day.

**Research Records:** Notations related to disease that is experimentally induced or experimental procedures that are conducted on animals do not necessarily need to be maintained in the medical record. Rather, it is typically appropriate for this information to be retained within a research record so long as this information is readily available for review by the veterinary staff, as well as for appropriate internal (e.g., IACUC) or external (e.g., USDA, PHS, AAALAC) oversight entities. If research data pertaining to experimentally induced disease or animal procedures conducted cannot be readily retrieved from a researcher’s notebook or computerized database, then this research data should be included within the medical record (Laboratory Animal Care Record) located in the animal housing room. Examples of research data which must be documented includes the following:

1. Animal or group identification and the date of the procedure.
2. Substances administered, including dose and route.
4. Monitoring for animal pain and distress and humane endpoints consistent with the parameters approved in the IACUC protocol.
5. All entries in the record should be dated and indicate the originator of the entry (e.g., initials, signature/electronic signature) and be legible to someone other than the writer.
6. Regarding the administration of infectious agents in animals, DAR will provide cage labels for the researcher to note the name of the infectious agent and the date it was administered to the animal.
7. Regarding the administration of medicated/special feed or medicated water, DAR will provide cage labels which contain a place to record the substance which has been added to the water or which clarifies the medicated/special feed.
8. Regarding breeding rodents, DAR will provide cage cards which contain places to record relevant breeding information.
9. For the administration of tumor cell lines, DAR will provide cage labels for the researcher to note the date of injection and location of injection (on the animals).
10. Regarding animals receiving chemical hazards, all standard operating procedures related to the use of such hazards must be followed. In addition, DAR will provide cage labels which contain a place to record the name of the chemical hazard which has been administered to the animal as well as the date of administration.
11. Regarding animals undergoing total body irradiation, DAR will provide cage labels for the researcher to note the date of the total body irradiation.
12. Regarding animals undergoing food or water restriction, DAR will provide cage labels for the researcher to note the date and time the restriction commenced and will terminate.
Pertinent Regulations*
U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training
Public Health Service Policy
Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and AWA Regulations

IACUC Approval Date: 10/20/2015
Signature IACUC Chair:
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