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.*

**Monitoring Animal Numbers on Protocols**

**Ordering Animals**

As stated in the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guidebook, (second edition, 2002) “Animals should be obtained only from licensed dealers or other legal sources, and it is incumbent upon an institution to establish mechanisms to monitor and document the number of animals acquired and used in approved activities. This it best accomplished if animal purchases may be made only through the institution’s animal resource facility or other appropriately designated office. Once animals have been acquired, they should be included in a tracking system.” Accordingly, all animal acquisitions must be made via the GSU Department of Animal Resources.

If animals are wild-caught, the total number of animals obtained must be reported to the GSU Department of Animal Resources. Researchers must be aware of the total number of animals remaining on the protocol prior to catching animals in the wild so as not to exceed the total number approved on the protocol.

**Breeding Animals in-House**

Tracking animal use becomes more complicated when investigators maintain breeding colonies. Animals born on site are counted against one’s approved animal numbers either at the time of weaning or when the animal is first used on the protocol, whichever comes first. Animals that are genotyped prior to weaning and then euthanized before weaning if they are not of the correct genotype do not count as “animals used.”

**Transferring Animals prior to or at Weaning**

Researchers may move animals prior to, or at the time of weaning from a breeding protocol to a research protocol by recording the animal as being weaned on the destination protocol on the “Researcher Activity Sheet” in the animal housing room. No record is needed on the originating protocol, as animals do not count until they are weaned unless they are used for research prior to weaning. Also, animals harvested from the dam prior to birth do not count as “animals used”, however this is typically a terminal procedure for the dam, and that animal does count against the protocol.

**Transferring Animals after Weaning**

As it relates to tracking animal use in association with IACUC-approved protocols, the IACUC is particularly concerned with assuring that the number of animals used does not exceed the number approved for use. Further, in regards to animals being transferred from one IACUC-approved protocol to another, the IACUC must assure that the previous use of an animal does not preclude the proposed use of the animal (e.g. avoiding overuse of the animal consistent with regulatory mandates and guidelines). For example, an animal that has previously undergone a
major survival surgery is typically not eligible to undergo a major survival surgery on a subsequent protocol.

The Division of Animal Resources Director or Associate to the Director, in consultation with the Assistant Director of IACUC, can approve the transfer of an animal from one IACUC-approved protocol to another IACUC-approved protocol so long as the following criteria are met:

- The cumulative use of the animal cannot exceed the level of invasiveness approved on the protocol to which the animal is being transferred.
  
  For example, an animal having undergone 2 blood collections from a peripheral vein (e.g. USDA pain category C blood collections) can be transferred to another protocol which is approved for pain category C blood collections. However, if the total amount of blood collections allowed on the recipient protocol is 5, the animal would only be eligible for 3 more blood collections.

- No animal may be used for multiple major survival surgeries unless such was approved on a protocol as interrelated components of one project.
  
  For example, a rat having received an ovariectomy on Protocol A may not be transferred to Protocol B to receive a brain cannulation unless Protocol B has approval to do ovariectomy and cannulation on the same animal at two different time points (multiple major survival surgery approval).

Researchers must submit an Animal Transfer form through the DAR Research Portal, outlining the historic use of the animals being transferred, the originating and destination protocols, and plan of use for the animals on the destination protocol. Please note that this transfer cannot take place until it has been reviewed and approved using the above delineated mechanism.

Any animal transfer requests which do not meet the criteria outlined above require prior review and approval by the IACUC.

**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: 5/22/2015

Signature IACUC Chair:  

Revision Dates: