

Wednesday September 4, 2008

Protocol Assessment Liaison BULLETIN

This Educational Information has been brought to you by Traci Clemons, Protocol Facilitation Program for the Vice Chancellor for Research, in cooperation with the UNMC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and Comparative Medicine.

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TIPS TO SURVIVE THE IACUC SEMI-ANNUAL INSPECTION

***Myth**

The IACUC conducts inspections because they like to catch you doing something wrong!

Fact: That is NOT the case. The IACUC conducts Semi-Annual inspections because it is required by law, {PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Research Animals and USDA Regulations}, and it ensures that we as an institution are conducting responsible animal research.

Deficiencies Commonly Found During Semi-Annual Facilities Inspections should NOT occur, are easily detected and easily corrected.

Please review the IACUC Tips on page 2 to make sure these issues have been addressed in your laboratory.

IACUC TIPS TO AVOID COMMON DEFICIENCIES:

- Insufficient post-procedural monitoring. Animals should be closely monitored after procedures until they are fully recovered from anesthesia. Monitoring should be recorded. Wound clips or skin sutures should be removed No later than 14 days after placement.
- Inadequate record keeping. Records should be complete, legible and accessible. Records should be kept for procedures, surgery, intra-operative, post-operative, and post-procedural monitoring and care.
- Waste Anesthetic gases not scavenged. Scavenge anesthetic gases using a dedicated system or through building exhaust.
- Vaporizers not serviced. Vaporizers should be serviced annually and the date recorded.
- Poor sanitation. Animal housing areas, surgeries, surfaces and equipment should be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Post a cleaning and sanitation schedule, and record dates of actions. All animal use areas should be neat and free of clutter.
- Procedures NOT approved in the IACUC protocol being performed. Please make sure that you have access to the most current approved version of the protocol that you are listed on and what your responsibilities are in the protocol.
- Improper sharps disposal. Sharps should be disposed of in proper sharps containers, and needles should NOT be recapped. Containers are to be disposed of when they are $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Do Not Overfill. Close the container and place into a biohazard waste disposal container.
- Expired Drugs and Supplies. Outdated drugs and supplies should be identified and disposed of appropriately.
- Inconsistent Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. PPE is the last defense against work place hazards. Uniforms, scrubs, or laboratory coats should be worn as indicated. PPE is not to be worn in public places.
- Controlled Drugs are to be kept under double lock and key and recorded in a log each time they are dispensed.
- Unsecured gas tanks. All gas tanks should be secured. Unsecured gas tanks are an injury hazard to people and animals.

FYI

Comments from the last PAL Bulletin on Required Training:

1. Training requirements pose time constraints for summer students.

I will be working with the IACUC, and CM to prepare a training packet for investigators to give out to summer students prior to their arrival on campus. The goal is to have this packet available to PI's by the spring of 2009.

2. Instructions for completing the Occupational Health and Safety Program training video were not complete.

Personnel must notify CM to have the course added to the Black Board site so it is accessible when you log in with your user ID and password.

If you have any comments pertaining to previous editions of PAL Bulletins, New Ideas, or Suggestions for topics please contact tclemons@unmc.edu!

***As always please check the IACUC and CM Websites for new forms and updates.**

***Book Mark these sites for quick access:**

[IACUC Home](#)

[UNMC Comparative Medicine](#)