ANIMAL HEALTH RECORDS

Summary of Presentation by Noel Johnson, DVM

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that covered species have individual animal health records including detailed peri-operative records for survival or nonsurvival surgeries/procedures (Pigs, Sheep, Dogs, Cats, Nonhuman primates, Rabbits, Hamsters, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, and hamsters.)
  - Animal Welfare Act (2.33.a.2) "each research facility shall ensure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use."

- The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) on behalf of the Public Health Service (PHS) recommends that non-covered species, (mice, rats, birds used in research) have records of peri-operative care for survival surgery/procedures.

- The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals states that animal records are useful and can vary in type, ranging from limited information on identification cards to detailed computerized records for individual animals.
**USDA**

Not all animals are animals
(Warm blooded live or dead, excluding rats, mice, & birds used in research)

**PHS Policy**

 Applies to all PHS funded animals in research.

Animal = Any live vertebrate

**AAALAC**

Any live vertebrate & sometimes invertebrates.

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**USDA Policy #3**

- Health records are meant to convey necessary information to all people involved in an animal’s care.

- Every facility is expected to have a system of health records sufficiently comprehensive to demonstrate the delivery of adequate health care.

- It is expected there will be an established health records system consistent with professional standards that meets and probably exceeds, the minimum requirements set forth in this policy.

- For all facilities, health records must be current, legible, and include, at a minimum, the following information:
  - Identity of the animal.
  - Descriptions of any illness, injury, distress, and/or behavioral abnormalities and the resolution of any noted problem.
  - Dates, details, and results (if appropriate) of all medically-related observations, examinations, tests, and other such procedures.
  - Dates and other details of all treatments, including the name, dose, route, frequency, and duration of treatment with drugs or other medications.

- Treatment plans should include:
  - DX / TX in sufficient detail to show the type, frequency, and duration of TX and criteria and/or schedule for reevaluation.
  - The AV’s recommendation concerning activity level or restrictions of the animal.
Routine husbandry and preventive medical procedures performed on a group of animals may be recorded on herd-health-type records. Individual treatment of an animal must be on an entry specific to that animal.

As long as all required information is readily available, records may be kept in any format convenient.

- Animal records are useful and can vary in type, ranging from limited information on identification cards to detailed computerized records for individual animals.
- Identification cards should include the source of the animal, the strain or stock, names and locations of the responsible investigators, pertinent dates, and protocol number, when applicable.
- An animal’s health records must be held for at least 1 year after its disposition or death.
- When an animal is transferred to another party or location, a copy of the animal’s health record must be transferred with the animal.

UNMC Requirements

**USDA Health Record Requirements:**

1. Date/Time/Initials must be recorded for each entry.

2. Description of any intervention performed on an animal in enough detail that another person could understand clearly what has been done.

   a. **Intervention:** The act of intervening, interfering or interceding with the intent of modifying the outcome. In medicine, an intervention is usually undertaken to help treat or cure a condition.

3. Record medication/TX/supplements administered to an animal which must include the name, dose (total milligrams) the animal received, and the route of administration.

4. Record daily observations for the animal while they are sick, recovering from surgery, under prescribed special care, or treatment.

   a. *Daily health checks of normal healthy animals do not need to be recorded on the individual animal health record; however, daily health checks by animal care staff are recorded on the room environmental conditions and animal health form.*
Non-USDA Health Record Recommendations:

1. Pre/post operative records for survival surgeries should be recorded and include the following information:
   a. Date/Time/Initials of procedure and person(s) performing the procedure.
   b. Anesthetic drug dose/route/administration
   c. Procedure being performed
   d. Confirmation of animal recovery including time of sternal recumbency.

2. Temporary ID #'s + Cage ID may be used for individual animals that have no permanent ID number during the procedure until the animal is recovered.

3. Surgical records may be kept on forms, notebooks, logs, or cage cards.

4. Utilize cage cards for record keeping (i.e. ID, treatment, procedures, medication administered, and breeding or other miscellaneous experimental information.

Recording Drug Doses:

A dose is generally defined as a measured quantity to be administered at one time. Ideally, drug doses should be entered as milligrams (mg) in the animal health record. Reference dosages are usually described in terms of milligrams per kilogram body weight (mg/kg). For each animal, the investigator is expected to calculate doses using the individual’s current body weight and the drug dosage approved in the IACUC protocol. The calculated dose is then entered in the animal health record (along with route of administration, date, time, etc.)

“Telazol-ketamine-xylazine 1.8 ml, IM”

**Problem:** How much of each drug did this animal receive?

Anesthetic cocktails such as this are commonly used in veterinary medicine. Although it’s preferable to provide the dose of each drug in milligrams, it is acceptable to list the volume of cocktail administered (1.8 ml) as long as the cocktail is adequately described in the animal record. For example; “Telazol cocktail = telazol 100mg/ml, ketamine 50mg/ml, and xylazine 50mg/ml.”

Anesthetic drug dosages listed in your approved IACUC protocol should be regarded as a starting point. Individual animals may require more or less anesthesia due to a wide variety of factors. For studies involving repeated anesthesia, you are encouraged to review the health record and adjust anesthetic doses based on the animal’s prior response, current body weight and physical condition.

Recommendations for veterinary drug dosages are subject to change as new information and new alternatives become available. All refinements must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC before they are implemented. The IACUC protocol should not be regarded as a supplement to the animal health record. All people involved in an animal’s care must have the ability to ascertain, from the information provided in the health record, exactly what has been to that animal. Please contact a Comparative Medicine veterinarian if you have any concerns about drug doses or how they should be recorded in the animal health records.
Suggestions

1. Preprinted stickers for frequently used drug regimens, IACUC approved procedures, special diets, etc. are acceptable to place in the animal health record or on the back of cage cards.

2. Cage cards are acceptable for recording data for NON-USDA animals.

3. Journals or notebooks are acceptable for recording surgical procedures for NON-USDA animals AND HAMSTERS.

Attachments:

1. Examples of Non-USDA species animal health records. (3)
2. Rodent Survival Surgery Handout
3. A list of commonly used medical abbreviations used in veterinary medicine and research.
4. Autoclave Safety Update
SAFETY UPDATE: Autoclave Tape Warning (attached)

March 2010 **Most Common Deficiencies**

Semi-Annual IACUC Inspections of Laboratories and Animal Procedure areas:

- Unprotected Sharps in storage containers
- Cluttered and Soiled Animal procedure areas
- Expired drugs
- Uncertified Anesthetic Vaporizers

For assistance with summer student requirements for animal/animal facility access:

Contact the IACUC for "IACUC Basics" and CM for "Occupational Health and Safety"

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

*Book Mark these sites for quick access:

http://www.unmc.edu/iacuc/

http://www.unmc.edu/comparativemed/

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