

Animal Care and Use Committee

Committee Members: J. A. Bryan, D. S. Carroll, B. J. Danielson, J. W. Dragoo, M. R. Gannon, W. L. Gannon, D. W. Hale, C. McCain, D. K. Odell, L.E. Olson, S. Rassing, R. S. Sikes (Chair), R. M. Timm, S. A. Trewitt.

Mission:

The ACUC acts as a resource for issues concerning the use of animals in research. The Committee maintains information on the ASM website regarding animal use and compliance and publishes revised guidelines regularly. The committee responds to inquiries from Society members, IACUC staff, government, and other agencies regarding appropriate use of wild mammals in research. We also provide comments on proposed changes to animal-use regulations.

Information Items:

(1) R. S. Sikes (representing the ASM) and Ellen Paul (representing the Ornithological Council), collaborated on two articles on oversight of wildlife research that were published in the ILAR Journal (a publication for staff and administrators charged with oversight of animal research). These articles can be accessed at the links provided below.

Sikes, R. S. and E. Paul. 2013. [Fundamental differences between wildlife and biomedical research. ILAR Journal 54:5-13](#)

Paul, E. and R. S. Sikes. 2013. [Wildlife researchers running the permit maze. ILAR Journal 54:14-23.](#)

(2) The ACUC Chair represented the ASM at the Annual Meeting of the AAALAC Board of Trustees in September 2013.

(3) A new wildlife training course in the CITI Program was released in December 2013. CITI, the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative program, is used by many institutions to document training. The wildlife course was written by representatives from each of the taxon societies, including two members of the ASM ACUC. The program is available at www.CITIProgram.org.

(4) R. S. Sikes, representing the ASM, has joined the CITI animal use developers group.

(5) The ACUC Chair presented a webinar on the oversight of wildlife that was hosted by the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (NIH OLAW). The webinar aired on 20 March 2014 and is available on the OLAW archives at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/educational_resources.htm. Interestingly, this webinar had the largest geographic coverage of any OLAW webinar and reached 19 countries on its initial broadcast.

(6) Two members of the ACUC (R. S. Sikes and J. A. Bryan) participated in a plenary presentation and a follow-up workshop on oversight of wildlife research at the annual IACUC meeting of PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) in April 2014 in Denver. Both sessions were well attended and well received. Of particular importance is that Dr. John Bradfield, senior director of AAALAC International, also participated in the panel and stated unequivocally that AAALAC International expects accredited institutions conducting wildlife research to be using guidelines and resources appropriate for wildlife.

(7) Three members of the ASM ACUC (R. Sikes, J. Bryan, and B. Danielson) were invited to address the Council of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, a division of the National Academy of Sciences and publishers of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, in April 2014. The panel discussion focused on difficulties IACUCs and PIs face in applying the *Guide* to activities involving wild animals.

(8) ACUC members Sikes and Bryan are panelists in an upcoming wildlife seminar entitled *Escaping the shoebox cage: working with wild animals in the field* at the annual AALAS training meeting (American Association for Laboratory Animal Science) in San Antonio in October 2014. AALAS is an important training opportunity for animal care technicians.

(9) The ACUC Chair has again been invited to present a plenary address and breakout session on wildlife research at the annual SCAW meeting (Scientist Center for Animal Welfare) to be held in San Antonio in December 2014.

(10) An update of the *Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the use of wild mammals in research* is planned for the first issue of JM in 2015.

Action Items:

(1) Budget request (no change from last year)

AAALAC International

\$100.00 AAALAC International (membership)

\$1,150.00 Travel to AAALAC Board of Trustees Meeting (transportation and lodging, 3 nights)

\$1,250.00

Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

\$1,000.00 SCAW (Institutional membership)

\$800.00 Transportation and lodging, 2 nights

\$1,800.00

PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research)

\$500.00 Registration, Annual Meeting

\$1750.00 Transportation and lodging, 3 nights

\$2,250.00

TOTAL REQUEST
\$5,300.00

Respectfully submitted,
Robert S. Sikes, Chair
(rssikes@ualr.edu)