

Animal Care and Use Committee

Committee Members: 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. Olsen, S. Rissing, R. S. Sikes (Chair), R. M. Timm, S. A. Trewhitt, and J. E. Whaley.

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) The 2007 version of the *Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals in Research* has received more than 480 citations in more than 50 indexed journals as of 15 April 2011.
- (2) The 2011 revision of the *Guidelines* was published in the February 2011 issue of the *Journal*. This publication has been widely distributed as an open access document with copies sent to the various U.S. agencies charged with oversight of animal use. Reprints with covers were acquired and will be distributed to local IACUCs and at appropriate professional meetings.
- (3) Over the past year the Committee provided comments to local IACUCs and investigators on a variety of issues including marking techniques for small mammals, interpretation of USDA reporting requirements, and release of captive animals. The Committee provides comments and opinions to ASM members, IACUCs, and other interested parties seeking expertise on non-laboratory species.
- (4) The Committee was represented in an August meeting at the Centers for Disease Control and provided comments regarding handling precautions for individuals working with wild rodents.
- (5) The Committee was represented in a September meeting organized by The Wildlife Society and the American Bird Conservancy regarding the efficacy of Trap-Neuter-Release programs for feral house cats.
- (6) The Committee provided written comments to the National Research Council (NRC) on proposed text for the 8th edition of the *Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals*. We also provided written comments to AAALAC International (Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care) regarding adoption of the NRC *Guide* as a resource and to the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAW) regarding adoption of the NCR *Guide* as a standard.

- (7) The Committee provided written comments on field euthanasia of mammals to the working group charged with revising AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines.
- (8) The Committee Chair co-hosted a breakout session on IACUC oversight of wildlife protocols at the annual PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) IACUC conference held in Chicago in March 2011.
- (9) The ACUC Chair, in collaboration with Ellen Paul, Executive Director of the Ornithological Council, Jeanne Fair (Los Alamos National Laboratory), and Janet Whaley (USDA APHIS and ASM ACUC member), has organized a 3 day workshop that includes the well-known IACUC 101 on the first day and is followed by 2 days of wildlife focused scenarios and discussion. The meeting will be held in Albuquerque, NM in late October 2011. Thus far we have \$50,000 in funding pledged from various agencies including: NSF, NIH-OLAW, the U.S. Forest Service, NOAA/NMFS, USDA-APHIS, and the New Mexico Consortium.
- (10) After consultation with President Mares, we have initiated steps for the ASM to become a member organization of AAALAC International and thus to have voice and vote on matters relating to accreditation and wildlife-related matters for this voluntary accreditation organization.
- (11) Committee members have searched for internet links to previous version of the ASM's guidelines for animal use and have alerted webmasters to the publication of the 2011 revision.

Action Items:

- (1) The Committee moves that the ASM annual budget be modified to include annual dues for membership organization status in AAALAC International in the amount of \$100, and \$1000 for travel expenses for an ASM representative to attend the annual meeting of the AAALAC Board of Trustees in September. (NOTE – the figure of \$1000 is based upon an estimate of \$450 for travel (airfares, shuttle, parking) and \$550 for hotel expenses (3 nights) in Washington DC).
- (2) The Committee moves that a representative and alternate be named to serve on the AAALAC International Board of Trustees to represent the interests of the ASM on animal care issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert S. Sikes, Chair
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