

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 and work to facilitate appropriate oversight of the use of wild mammals in research.

Information Items – January 2014 to date:

(1) The visibility of wildlife research, and more especially the special concerns specific to work with wild animals that IACUCs must consider, continues to increase. Efforts by many ACUC members are driving this increased visibility.

(2) At the request of the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, ACUC Chair Sikes presented a webinar on oversight of wildlife research in March of 2014. According to OLAW resources, this was the most widely geographically distributed webinar they have ever produced. It reached more than 350 registered groups from 19 countries. The transcript, slides and questions and answers are available on the NIH OLAW education resource website at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/educational_resources.htm.

(3) Committee members Sikes and Bryan presented a plenary panel and a panel follow-up/breakout session at the 2014 PRIM&R IACUC conferences in Denver, April 2014

(4) In April, ACUC members Sikes, Bryan, and Danielson addressed the Council of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research in Washington, DC regarding effective oversight of wildlife research and steps the Council might take.

(5) The ACUC chair represented the ASM at the Annual Meeting of the AAALAC Board of Trustees in September, 2014.

(6) The ACUC chair, along with representatives from the other taxon societies, presented a session on care of wild animals in captivity at the Annual Meeting of AALAS in San Antonio, TX, in September.

(7) ACUC Chair Sikes presented a plenary talk and one breakout session on effective oversight of wildlife research and collaborated on a breakout session on application of the AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia at the Annual Meeting of the Scientist Center for Animal Welfare in

December, 2014.

(8) Sikes, representing the ASM, was nominated and appointed to the ILAR Council as an expert on oversight of research involving wild animals.

(9) Sikes was appointed to the PRIM&R planning committee responsible for planning PRIM&R IACUC meetings.

2015 to date:

(10) In February Sikes and Bryan presented a PRIM&R webinar on the challenges of wildlife research.

(11) The 2015 annual PRIM&R IACUC meeting, held in Boston, MA in March, included talks and sessions by three ACUC members focused on research with wild animals. Darin Carrol was both a plenary speaker and a plenary panelist, Sikes and Bryan conducted two breakout sessions on wildlife topics.

(12) ACUC member John Bryan was an invited panelist for an ILAR Roundtable on Performance Standards in oversight of animal research. This roundtable was held in Washington, DC in April and was simultaneously webcast.

(13) ACUC members Sikes and Bryan are co-editors for an edition of the ILAR Journal focused on insights from studies of wild populations. The issue will include an article with specific advice for IACUCs reviewing protocols involving wildlife.

(14) In response to requests from the ASM ACUC and the Ornithological Council, the USDA APHIS office has included language in their revised Facilities Inspection Guide providing clarification on whether or not covered species are to be included on annual reports. This language states that wild mammals euthanized in the field are NOT to be included on the USDA annual reports (Form 7023). For work with wild mammals, this means that animals euthanized may be included under the 'field studies' exemption.

Action Items:

(1) Budget request

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

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