

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. Olson, 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 2011 edition of the *Guidelines* has been widely distributed. Reprints with covers have been provided at a number of IACUC-focused professional meetings and have been well received.
- (2) Judging from citation data, the 2007 and 2011 “Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals in Research” have been accepted as standards by practicing mammalogists around the world. As of April 2012, these editions collectively have been cited in 101 journals indexed by the Web of Science other than the *Journal of Mammalogy*.
- (3) Sikes (representing the ASM) and Ellen Paul (representing the Ornithological Council) co-organized and hosted “A walk on the wild side: a conference on IACUC oversight of wildlife research” held in Albuquerque, NM, 26-28 October 2011. Seven members of the ASM Animal Care and Use Committee were present and participated in presentation of the conference program. The conference brought together investigators, IACUC members, and federal workers involved with oversight of animal use. Financial support for the conference was provided by the National Science Foundation, the U. S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Inspection Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U. S. D. A. Forest Service, Los Alamos National Laboratories, the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, the New Mexico Consortium, and the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International).
- (4) Sikes (representing the ASM), Ellen Paul (representing the Ornithological Council), and Stephen Beaupre (representing the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists) prepared and submitted a manuscript to AIBS *BioScience* entitled "Standards for wildlife research: Taxon-specific guidelines vs. PHS Policy." This document argues for formal recognition of taxon-specific guidelines in Public Health Services policy as the appropriate standards for wildlife research as opposed to the ILAR *Guide for the care and use of*

laboratory animals.

- (5) In February 2012, Sikes (representing the ASM) and Ellen Paul (representing the Ornithological Council) met with Dr. John Wingfield, Assistant for the NSF Biological Sciences Directorate, regarding opportunities to increase recognition of taxon-specific guidelines as the appropriate standards for federally funded research with wild taxa.
- (6) The application by the ASM to become a member organization of the AAALAC International was approved by the AAALAC Board of Trustees in their meeting of September 2011, in Washington, D.C. The ASM ACUC committee chair attended the annual meeting after approval of ASM's application.
- (7) The 2011 edition of the *Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the use of wild mammals in research* was reviewed and accepted by AAALAC International as a reference resource with three clarifications and two exceptions.
- (8) The committee chair hosted a breakout session on IACUC oversight of wildlife protocols at the Annual Meeting of the Scientist Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) held in San Antonio, TX in December 2011.
- (9) The committee chair served as session coordinator and panelist for a double session on IACUC oversight of wildlife protocols at the annual PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) IACUC conference held in Boston in March 2012.
- (10) Over the past year the committee provided comments to IACUCs and investigators on issues ranging from acceptance of data from previous studies exempt from IACUC review to recommendations regarding thoracic compression. The committee regularly provides comments and opinions to ASM members, IACUCs, and other interested parties seeking expertise on non-laboratory species.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Sikes, Chair

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