

## 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. Ressing, 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) Sikes (representing the ASM), Ellen Paul (representing the Ornithological Council), and Stephen Beaupre (representing the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists) published the manuscript entitled "Standards for wildlife research: Taxon-specific guidelines vs. PHS Policy." in *AIBS BioScience*. 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*.
- (2) The ACUC chair represented the ASM at the Annual Meeting of the AAALAC Board of Trustees in September 2012.
- (3) Representing the ASM, the ACUC chair attended the Annual Meeting of the Scientist Center for Animal Welfare. Although no formal presentation was made at the meeting, copies of the *ASM Guidelines* were made available to all attendees and there was considerable interaction with participants asking about oversight of wildlife. NOTE – Sikes was invited to return in 2013 as a panel speaker, to facilitate a breakout session on oversight of wildlife, and as a co-facilitator on a session regarding application of the AVMA guidelines for euthanasia.
- (4) The ACUC chair, with approval of the ASM Board and in coordination with the Ornithological Council, requested a proposal to evaluate the efficacy of thoracic compression.
- (5) The National Science Foundation revised their Grant Program Guide in January 2013 to formally recognize taxon-specific standards in proposals submitted to them. This action is as requested in the *BioScience* paper listed above.
- (6) The ACUC chair and an additional committee member (J. A. Bryan) represented the ASM at the Annual PRIM&R IACUC Meeting in Baltimore in March. Both of these individuals also were facilitators for a double session on oversight of wildlife in research (a session that has

grown each year).

- (7) Sikes (representing the ASM) and Ellen Paul (representing the Ornithological Council) submitted invited papers to a special wildlife-focused edition of the ILAR journal. These manuscripts were accepted and publication is expected in early 2013.
- (8) A wildlife-specific training module was drafted and submitted to CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative). This module was written by Sikes (representing the ASM), Ellen Paul (Representing the Ornithological Council, Joan Richerson (Veterans Administration), Steven Beaupre (ASIH), and John Bryan, National Park Service and ASM).
- (9) A draft for Frequently Asked Questions regarding oversight of wildlife research was solicited by the Federal Demonstration Partnership. This document was written by Sikes (ASM), Ellen Paul (OC), and Steven Beaupre (ASIH) and has been submitted for review to the FDP.
- (10) The ACUC chair was asked to co-author a chapter to include information on review of wildlife protocols for a revision of the ARENA/OLAW IACUC guidebook.
- (11) The ACUC is preparing a response to the recent (February) revision of the AVMA's *Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals* that will be proposed as a position statement by the ASM.
- (12) Over the past year the committee provided comments to IACUCs and investigators on issues regarding appropriate use of wild mammals in research. The committee regularly provides comments and opinions to ASM members, IACUCs and other interested parties seeking expertise on non-laboratory species.

**Action Items:**

- (1) Budget request (this is a continuation of funding approved for in past years with a slight increase to match rising travel costs).

AAALAC International

\$ 100.00 AAALAC International (membership)

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

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\$ 1,250.00

Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

\$ 1,000.00 SCAW (Institutional membership)

\$ 800.00 Transportation and lodging, 2 nights

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\$ 1,800.00

PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research)

\$ 500.00 Registration, annual meeting  
\$ 1750.00 Transportation and lodging, 3 nights

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\$ 2,250.00

**TOTAL REQUEST**  
**\$ 5,300.00**

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Robert S. Sikes, Chair  
([rssikes@ualr.edu](mailto:rssikes@ualr.edu))