

Animal Care and Use Committee

Committee Members: J. A. Bryan, D. Byman, B. J. Danielson, J. Eggleston, M. R. Gannon, W. L. Gannon, D. W. Hale, B. Jessmer, D. K. Odell, L.E. Olson, R. D. Stevens, R. S. Sikes (Chair), R. M. Timm, T. A. Thompson, S. A. Trewhitt, J. R. Willoughby.

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 provide comments on proposed changes to animal use regulations and work to facilitate appropriate oversight of the use of wild mammals in research. Over the past years, the ACUC has become increasingly proactive in educational efforts aimed at helping oversight and regulatory personnel understand the unique aspects of research with wild mammals.

Information Items – January 2014 to date:

- (1) Efforts from various ASM ACUC members are maintaining the high visibility of the challenges concerning wildlife research among oversight personnel, funders, and regulators.
- (2) The ASM Guidelines continue to be the standard for oversight of research involving wild mammals. To date, there are more than 800 citations of the 2011 guidelines in more than 150 different journals. Importantly, more than 55% of the citations are in journals other than *JM*, which is a clear indication that these guidelines are being used by researchers as the most appropriate reference materials regardless of where they are publishing.
- (3) The ACUC completed a significant revision of the ASM Guidelines. The revision includes many newly published articles and is more than 45% longer than the 2011 edition of the guidelines. Publication is scheduled for 2016.
- (4) The ACUC revised the Wildlife Protocol template to include new content designed to facilitate submission and approval of requests for IACUC approved departure from PHS Policy, the *Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals* and the *AVMA Guidelines for the euthanasia of animals*. This form was formally endorsed by the ASM Board of Directors. It has been submitted to our sister taxon societies for their review and endorsement prior to submission to AAALAC International for formal review as a reference resource.
- (5) The ACUC Chair presented a webinar on oversight of wildlife research through AAALAC International in November of 2015. The podcast is available at <https://www.aaalac.org/education/index.cfm>.
- (6) The ACUC Chair presented a breakout session entitled Ethics and compliance with animals

from the wild in December at the 2015 Annual Meeting of SCAW (the Scientist Center for Animal Welfare) in San Antonio, TX.

(7) ACUC members Sikes and Bryan presented two breakout sessions on oversight of wildlife research at PRIM&R in Seattle, Washington. ACUC member Thompson was also in attendance at the meeting.

(8) The ACUC Chair represented the ASM at the Annual Meeting of the AAALAC Board of Trustees in September 2015.

(9) ACUC members Bryan and Sikes served as co-issue editors for a wildlife-focused issue of the *ILAR Journal*. The issue included the articles on oversight of wildlife listed below as well as a commentary on the use of appropriate guidelines for wildlife research by Dr. John Wingfield, former leader of the Biology Directorate of the NSF.

Bryan, J. A., and R. S. Sikes. 2015. Insights gained from wildlife research in the context of global anthropogenic change. *ILAR Journal* 56:272–274.

Paul, E., R. S. Sikes, S. J. Beaupre, and J. C. Wingfield. 2015. Animal Welfare Policy: Implementation in the context of wildlife research. *ILAR Journal* 56:312–334.

Sikes, R. S., and J. A. Bryan. 2015. IACUC considerations for the use of wildlife in research and education. *ILAR Journal* 56:335–341.

(10) ACUC members Sikes and Bryan published commentary in *Lab Animal* on the use of gunshot for euthanasia of wildlife (citation below). This article addressed flaws in the AVMA approved methods for gunshot as applied to wildlife research.

Sikes R. S., and J. A. Bryan. 2016. Consider the circumstances: a response to gunshot scenario for wildlife research. *Lab Animal* 45:95–96.

(11) ACUC Chair Sikes continues to serve on the PRIM&R planning committee for planning the Annual PRIM&R IACUC Meeting. These meetings serve as a continuing education opportunity for oversight and compliance personnel and ASM participation has increased the visibility of wildlife research among these personnel.

(12) ACUC member Sikes was elected to AAALAC International's Council on Accreditation. Because Council members review reference materials and establish accreditation expectations in addition to performing site visits, inclusion on this body provides an additional voice within AAALAC International for field-oriented input.

(13) The ACUC continues to field at least one question per month from investigators, IACUC members, or regulatory agencies regarding field techniques or oversight concerns.

(14) ACUC members Bryan, Sikes, and Thompson were invited to plan a meeting on the

oversight of wildlife research tailored for oversight personnel under the aegis of SCAW (Scientists Center for Animal Welfare). The preliminary plan is for an event similar to the 2011 conference on the same theme that was jointly organized by the ASM and OC. The meeting likely will be held in October or November of 2017 and the intent is to have this event repeated every 2-3 years.

(15) Interactions with leadership of sister taxon organizations regarding their consideration of the wildlife protocol template is progressing well. We are making good headway in establishing a united concern on appropriate oversight of wild vertebrates.

Action Items:

AAALAC International

\$ 100.00 AAALAC International (membership)

\$ 1,500.00 Travel to AAALAC Board of Trustees Meeting (transportation and lodging, 3 nights)

\$ 1,600.00

Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

\$ 1,000.00 SCAW (Institutional membership)

\$ 1,500.00 Transportation and lodging, 3 nights

\$ 2,500.00

PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research)

\$ 500.00 Registration, Annual Meeting

\$ 3,000.00 Transportation and lodging, will fund 2 members for 3 nights.

NOTE—funds for second ACUC member to be used only if both serve as PRIM&R faculty

\$ 3,500.00

Contingency travel funds for travel and lodging for interactions with sister organizations, regulatory, or federal funding agencies to address concerns over regulatory oversight of wild mammals.

\$ 3,000.00

TOTAL REQUEST

\$ 10,600.00

Respectfully submitted,

Robert S. Sikes, Chair

(rssikes@ualr.edu)