

## Ensuring Quality Care of Research Animals

### **Perform only those procedures described in the protocol.**

- Ensure that everyone on the protocol is familiar with all its procedures, and that they understand the protocols must be followed in their entirety.
- No deviation from a protocol is permitted without prior approval from the IACUC.
- Place a copy of the approved protocol in a binder and maintain in the lab for reference purposes.

### **Observe post-procedure animals according to the schedule outlined in the approved protocol.**

- Follow the protocol exactly as written, even if it means assessing animals in the middle of the night and weekends.
- If monitoring frequency is unnecessarily stringent for the specific procedure, request a modification of the protocol from the IACUC to allow more flexibility.

### **Allow only investigator staff listed on the protocol to perform procedures on animals.**

- Assure that all staff are added to the protocol and have been thoroughly trained to perform all procedures requested of them.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- **Wear appropriate PPE at all times.**
- **Educate staff on occupational health & safety in the care & use of laboratory animals.**

### **Document any observations, procedures or therapeutic administrations.**

- Be thorough and complete concerning the documentation of such activities in the research records - i.e. study records, surgical records, green procedural cage cards.
- Remember — if it's not written down, it didn't happen.

### **Communicate with veterinary staff regarding the health status of post-procedural animals.**

- If an animal develops any complication(s) after procedures, you must communicate those complication(s) with the veterinary staff and document this in the medical record.

### **Ensure all substances in animal use areas are usable.**

- Institute a program to monitor all substances administered to animals on a monthly basis.
- Label any item that is not for animal use "for in vitro use only."
- Dispose of all expired drugs.
- Use only **Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds**.

### **Store controlled substances in secured locations.**

- Always store all controlled substances in a locked and secure location.
- Maintain a drug log for all controlled substances.

#### **Contact us:**

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