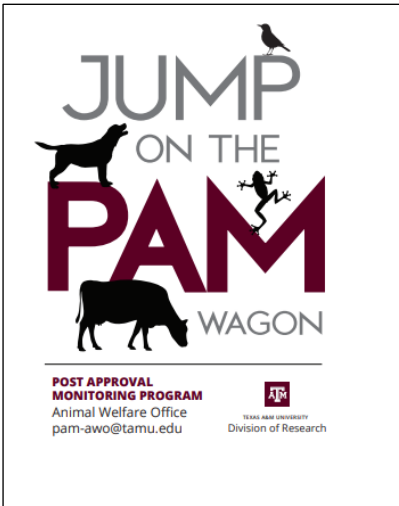


Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) FAQs



Q: What is PAM?

A: Since 2019, Texas A&M has utilized dedicated AWO staff to help the IACUC fulfill its regulatory duty of monitoring animal activities after approval. The program values a service-oriented approach rooted in an exchange of information. Methodologies include protocol/records review, personnel interviews and observation of procedures.

Q: How do I prepare for PAM?

A: There is no expectation of preparation. If interested, you or a member of your staff can take a self-assessment (AWO-C-012 PAM - PI Self-Assessment Checklist) prior to your PAM review. This is not required. Be knowledgeable about your current AUP(s) and be responsive to requests for records.

Q: What is the purpose of Post-Approval Monitoring?

A: While Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) fulfills a requirement of animal welfare regulations, the PAM team is intended to be a resource for the research community. PAM staff establish partnerships with research teams to provide support and share information about animal welfare regulations and institutional guidelines, as well as provide feedback to the Institutional Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Animal Welfare Program leadership to improve and streamline the compliance process.

Q: How will PAM benefit my research?

A: PAM staff can help identify issues which can compound your compliance burden, preventing you from performing your research effectively and efficiently.

Other benefits that may be gained from a PAM review include but are not limited to:

- demonstrate an institution-wide culture of animal welfare
- help laboratory staff find resolutions to problems and develop tools for success
- provide opportunities to refine IACUC protocols through protocol review and observation

PAM has helped to facilitate the following animal program improvements:

- reduced compliance burden by assisting with combining AUPs
- development of customizable animal records and compliance tools, signs
- improved flexibility in AUP contracts

Q: Why does TAMU have a PAM program?

A: The PAM program is designed to help TAMU provide assurances to regulatory agencies, sponsors, legislative bodies and the public that TAMU is a proactive community of investigators who accept and meet obligations for the proper care and use of laboratory animals.

Q: Will I be notified if my laboratory is in compliance with what the IACUC expects?

A: Yes, outcomes of these visits will either confirm that all procedures are humane and match the protocol description or identify instances of protocol 'drift'. Applicable resources will be included.

The PAM Program appreciates and acknowledges your efforts to conduct progressive science and humane research. We look forward to working with you. Please contact us at pam-awo@tamu.edu for faculty or group outreach.