

Tips for Self Reporting (IACUC Reportable Events)

Self-reporting of animal welfare concerns and potential non-compliance is consistent with the institutional goal of demonstrating to regulating/assuring agencies, sponsors, and the public that TAMU is a proactive community which accepts and meets obligations for the proper care and use of laboratory animals. (TAMU Rule 15.99.07.M1)

The IACUC recognizes that isolated instances of non-compliance can occur as the result of minor error with no intent to circumvent applicable requirements. As such, the IACUC has the discretion to determine whether a full investigative process and formal corrective measures are required in particular circumstances.

Examples of reportable situations: Any condition that jeopardizes the health or well-being of animals such as: accidents, mechanical failures, and natural disasters, failure to monitor animals after procedures, failure to maintain animal records, failure to ensure death after euthanasia procedures, potential non-compliance with AUP procedures, TAMU rules, IACUC Guidance or federal regulations. See TAMU-G-015 Guidelines for Reporting Animal Concerns, etc.

Benefits of self-reporting:

- Allows research teams to develop a plan to remedy animal welfare or compliance issues and prevent recurrence
- The IACUC looks favorably upon self-reporting by researchers and thus, will consider corrective actions already taken by the PI
- **Helps avoid unnecessary animal pain & distress**

Report by submitting an IACUC Reportable Event form in iRIS (see IRIS-M-006 How to Create other Study Submission Forms [PI]). Events that impact the health or safety of animals should be reported as soon as possible after discovery of the event. It is appropriate to seek assistance from an ARU/CMP/PAR/PRF veterinarian when Unanticipated Adverse Events occur. Consultation with the Attending Veterinarian or designee **MUST** occur when an animal's immediate health or welfare is threatened, pain or distress is beyond the level anticipated in the protocol description or when interventional control (such as analgesics) is not possible.

The following types of events do not require reporting to the IACUC

- Adverse consequences that can be expected as part of the research model or teaching activity and which are described in the IACUC approved protocol
- Animals are removed from study or euthanized based on protocol early removal criteria. See TAMU-G-001 Guidelines on Choosing Appropriate Endpoints
- Death or morbidity of animals described as potential or anticipated clinical signs in the approved AUP
- Injury or illness unrelated to study procedures (e.g. animal is treated for bloat, fight wounds, barbering, etc.)
- Animals displaying clinical signs, requiring euthanasia or dying shortly after acquisition or arrival and during the quarantine or conditioning phase prior to initiation of approved work on the AUP
- Death of animals that have reached the end of their natural life spans
- Death or failures of neonates to thrive when husbandry and veterinary medical oversight of dams and offspring was appropriate
- Animal death or illness when appropriate quarantine, preventive medical, surveillance, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures were in place and followed

Tips for maintaining animal welfare compliance:

- Participate in post-approval monitoring (PAM) to prevent potential noncompliance. See AWO-O-007 Animal Activity Liaison Flyer and AWO-O-012 PAM FAQs
- Regular lab meetings including the PI to discuss lab business as well as review AUP procedures
- Know your protocol including approved procedures, drugs, monitoring plan, and removal criteria. Comply with the terms of your AUP.
- Plan ahead for projects that will require AUP amendment



- Don't initiate changes before IACUC approval
- Adequate training. PIs are responsible for ensuring that animal staff is appropriately trained and approved to work on the AUP.
- Know when and how to contact the Attending Veterinarian or animal care staff
- Consult with AWO staff including PAM. Please ask us!

Contact the Attending Veterinarian or AWO staff for assistance with reporting:

- AWO: 979.845.1828 or animalcompliance@tamu.edu
- PAM: pam-awo@tamu.edu

- **For immediate veterinary assistance, call:**

- o College Station (CMP): (979) 845-7433
- o Dallas (ARU): (214) 828-8149
- o Galveston (Sea Life Facility): (409) 740-4574
- o Houston (PAR): (713) 677-7471
- o Kingsville (PRF): (361) 221-0770

Resources/References:

TAMU Rule 15.99.07.M1 Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing: <https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.07.M1.pdf>

Research Compliance & Biosafety – Animals page: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/>

IACUC Guidance documents, SOPs, iRIS instructions, and tools such as sample animal records:

<https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/> (log in with your TAMU Net ID credentials to view)