

AAALAC Areas of Special Emphasisⁱ

Guidance, Checklists, and AWO documents may be accessed here (requires TAMU authentication):
<https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/>

AAALAC Accreditation revisit information may be accessed here:

[AAALAC International – Main Campus/Kingsville Accreditation Revisit 2024 \(late January-March\) – Division of Research \(tamu.edu\)](https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/)

I. Isoflurane Anesthesia

- a) **The Guide:** Chapter 2 – Occupational Health and Safety, [Animal Experimentation Involving Hazards](#) (p. 21)
- b) **AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines:** S2.2 Small Laboratory and Wild-Caught Rodents, Acceptable with Conditions Methods – S2.2.2.1 [Inhaled agents](#) (p. 61)
- c) **IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-003 (also see AWO-O-008, AWO-O-085)
- d) **What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Protection of human operator from waste anesthetic gas exposure
 - AUP (Drugs table) lists method of administration (e.g.: vaporizer, open drop)
 - Open drop method described in AUP Procedures + no animal contact with compound + dispensing/off-gassing in chemical fume hood
 - Appropriate usage of charcoal cannisters (dated, weight collected + disposal, placement to ensure functionality)

2. Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds

- a) **The Guide:** Chapter 2 – Special Considerations for IACUC Review, [Use of Non-Pharmaceutical-Grade Chemicals and Other Substances](#) (pp. 31)
- b) **IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-010
- c) **What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Scientific justification for exception when pharma grade available - including alternative anesthetics and euthanasia (found in AUP Drug/Agent Administration – all questions below table; see help text for example justification)

3. Use of Expired Drugs, Compounds and Medical Materials

- a) **The Guide:** Chapter 4
 - 1) [Recordkeeping](#) (p. 115)
 - 2) [Anesthesia and Analgesia](#) (p. 122)
- b) **OLAW FAQ F.5.:** Animal Use and Management, [May investigators use expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies in animals?](#)
- c) **The Ag Guide:** Chapter 2 – Drug Storage and Control (p. 14)
- d) **IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-010 and TAMU-G-024
- e) **What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Use of in-date drugs, compounds and other medical materials in live animals
 - Expired drugs, etc. are marked/segregated to prevent use
 - Use of expired drugs, etc. is described and justified in the AUP consistent with TAMU-G-024

4. Single Housing

- a) **The Guide:** Chapter 3
 - 1) Terrestrial Animals, Behavioral and Social Management, [Social Environment](#) (p. 64)
 - 2) Aquatic Animals, [Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing](#) (pp. 82-83)
- b) **The Ag Guide:** Chapter 3 – Social Environment (p. 21)
- c) **IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-027
- d) **What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Scientific justification in AUP



- Impacted group(s)/animal count
- Duration/plan for return to group housing
- Extra enrichment or scientific justification for exception

5. Lack of Environmental Enrichment

- The Guide:** Chapter 3 –
 - Terrestrial Animals, [Environmental Enrichment](#) (pp. 52-54)
 - Aquatic Animals, [Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing](#) (pp. 82-83)
- The Ag Guide:** Chapter 4 - Environmental Enrichment (pp. 30-43)
- IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-027
- What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Scientific justification for exception in AUP
 - Impacted group(s)/animal count
 - Duration

6. Survival Surgery – Preemptive Analgesia, Site Preparation & Thermoregulatory Support

- PHS Policy:** [Sections C.1.a-c. and D.1.d.](#)
- The Guide:** Chapter 4 – Surgery: [Aseptic Technique](#) (pp. 118-119), [Intraoperative Monitoring and Postoperative Care](#) (p. 119-120), [Pain and Distress](#) (pp. 120-122)
- The Ag Guide:** Chapter 2 – Surgery, Surgical Facilities and Aseptic Technique (p. 12), Signs of Pain and Distress (p. 13); Chapter 4 – Surgery, Postsurgical Care (pp. 12-13)
- IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-002, TAMU-G-013, TAMU-G-018, TAMU-G-022, TAMU-G-035, TAMU-G-049
- What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Preemptive analgesia or includes scientific justification for exception in AUP
 - **Hint:** Analgesia must be administered such that the animal does not experience pain.
 - Description in AUP of site preparation (shaving/hair removal in hair/fur bearing species; surgical scrub with more than just saline/alcohol + multiple alternating scrubs or extended contact time) or includes scientific justification for exception
 - Thermoregulatory support for surgery lasting more than 15 minutes/recovery or includes scientific justification for exception in AUP

7. Euthanasia Method

- PHS Policy:** [Section C.1.g.](#)
- The Guide:** Chapter 4 – [Euthanasia](#) (pp. 123-124)
- [AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines](#)
- The Ag Guide:** Chapter 2 – Humane Endpoints, Euthanasia (p. 15)
- IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-025, TAMU-G-028, TAMU-G-047, TAMU-G-048; also AWO-O-014, AWO-O-026
- What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - Method described in AUP Procedures section & consistent with AVMA (review IACUC Guidance to start)
 - Drugs/Compounds used found in Drugs table of AUP
 - Label/method description in Planned Euthanasia table includes drugs + secondary method and matches Procedures

8. Assessing Effectiveness of Hand Sanitation

- The Guide:** Chapter 3 – [Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanitation](#) (p. 72)
- IACUC Guidance:** see TAMU-G-026
- What is AAALAC looking for?**
 - PI hand washed items used for live animals appear clean, odor free, and in good condition
 - Records of regular evaluation of sanitation effectiveness for PI hand washed items; e.g.: culture or ATP

ⁱ areas of emphasis are not applicable to all animal use protocols (procedure dependent)

