AAALAC Areas of Special Emphasis

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)

I. Isoflurane Anesthesia

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
a) The Guide: Chapter 3 –
   1) Terrestrial Animals, Environmental Enrichment (pp. 52-54)
   2) Aquatic Animals, Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing (pp. 82-83)
b) The Ag Guide: Chapter 4 - Environmental Enrichment (pp. 30-43)
c) IACUC Guidance: see TAMU-G-027
d) 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
a) PHS Policy: Sections C.1.a-c. and D.1.d.
b) The Guide: Chapter 4 – Surgery: Aseptic Technique (pp. 118-119), Intraoperative Monitoring and Postoperative Care (p. 119-120), Pain and Distress (pp. 120-122)
c) 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)
e) What is AAALAC looking for?
   • Preemptive analgesia or includes scientific justification for exception in AUP
   o 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
a) PHS Policy: Section C.1.g.
b) The Guide: Chapter 4 – Euthanasia (pp. 123-124)
c) AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines
d) The Ag Guide: Chapter 2 – Humane Endpoints, Euthanasia (p. 15)
e) IACUC Guidance: see TAMU-G-025, TAMU-G-028, TAMU-G-047, TAMU-G-048; also AWO-O-014, AWO-O-026
f) 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
a) The Guide: Chapter 3 – Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanitation (p. 72)
b) IACUC Guidance: see TAMU-G-026
c) 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