Washington State University

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

POLICY ON INSTRUCTIONAL ANIMAL USE

A. Policy Change Context:

The WSU IACUC is discussing changes in the expectations and review process for instructional animal use proposals. A Town Hall meeting was held in January 2015 to discuss this issue with various stakeholders, from department administrators to instructors. The IACUC continues to seek feedback on changes regarding these proposals and policies from stakeholders. After input is gathered, policy will be reviewed and revised prior to further dissemination in the draft form. This process will continue during the spring of 2015. The document below is a draft approach to updating the proposal forms and review policy.

I. Key Guiding Principles of WSU Instructional Use of Animals

A. Animal use affiliated with WSU is regulated and monitored by the USDA. This use includes research, production and instructional settings.

B. Animals are a protected resource and decisions about their use are based on justification by the PI in proposals to the WSU IACUC.

C. Assessment and evaluation of instructional animal use proposals apply the same principles as research proposals for animal use.

1. Replacing animal use with other materials: This could include models, simulators, computer animations, and many other educational resources.

2. Refinement: This includes modifying procedures to maximizing the educational value using the fewest animals while minimizing the pain and distress to the animals used.

3. Reducing animal numbers: This may include many strategies to gain effective instruction while using the fewest number of individual animals.

II. Instructional Animal Use Protocol Basics

A. Academic Schedules: Proposals for Instructional Animal Use must be approved by the WSU IACUC prior to instructional animal use. Instructors acting as course directors are responsible for preparing these proposals using the online submission system.

1. These proposals should be approved before course listings and course descriptions appear active in the WSU Catalog.

2. Course directors should allow suitable time for review prior to catalog deadlines and time for revision in response to the review process.

B. Preparation & Submission: Instructors acting as course directors are responsible for preparing these proposals using the online submission system. This online form system guides users through needed information related to the subsequent review process. Users should follow the system prompts to ensure completeness of their submission.

1. Identify all personnel who handle animals during proposed use. If students will handle animals, indicate ways in which student users are trained and supervised to minimize animal distress. Student users are not
required to complete the online animal use training, but all in supervisory roles are, including Teaching Assistants, Lab Staff and others.

2. Identify all types of animal use within the instruction, including specifics about the students involved.

3. Provide instructional materials in support of the proposal including the syllabus or schedule of the course/training activity. WSU mandates that all training syllabi have clearly stated student learning outcomes and coupled assessment plans included in the syllabus materials. The use of animals in meeting these student learning outcomes and assessments of learning should be clearly justified in any proposal.

4. Provide a justification from an educational perspective for this training. What are the educational alternatives to animal use in meeting these objectives? What evidence supports the required use of animals over the alternatives in these training contexts?

5. Include all drugs and chemicals that come in contact with animals used in these instructional settings in the detailed table as directed. If chemicals pose toxicity risk to personnel as well as the animals, include operating procedures to minimize exposure to both.

C. Instructional Resources: The WSU IACUC website includes a broad range of resources, websites and other options that are available for instructors in diverse disciplines. These resources may vary with discipline. Visit www.iacuc.wsu.edu.

1. Use the IACUC website to review pain classifications if necessary prior to writing your instructional proposal for animal use.
2. Use the IACUC website to review housing needs for instructional animals.

III. Review of Instructional Animal Use Protocols

A. All animal use proposals are reviewed by the IACUC to ensure animal safety using the guiding principles above. An instructional animal use proposal will be reviewed applying the same decision-making criteria as research proposals while adding the educational component to these evaluations. These align with the guiding principles outlined in section (I.) above.

B. The following areas will be scrutinized when instructional animal use proposals are reviewed:

1. Are the personnel involved in the proposed use qualified and trained to effectively and safely handle the animals in the proposed manner?
2. Is the location of the proposed instructional use suitable for the proposed activities? If these activities include invasive procedures, are training locations equipped to provide aseptic conditions and minimize post-procedure complications in the animals used?
3. Are the proposed procedures performed in a manner that minimizes animal distress and pain? What measures are used to assess animal distress and pain during the instructional procedures?
4. Have the investigators identified alternatives to animal use through database searches and evaluated them? Are there alternative educational approaches available? If available, do these approaches reduce, refine or replace animal use? Have the investigators justified the educational use of the animals in alignment with the training’s stated objectives and outcomes?
5. What is the training value of the animal use to the trainee population with respect to the alternatives?
6. Is the submission complete with regard to drugs and chemicals used in the proposal? Are these materials pharmaceutical grade?

Approved by WSU-IACUC 4.29.2015