

**The University of Texas at Austin
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist**

Available Resources / References

- Emergency, weekend, and holiday contact information posted
- Copy of approved IACUC protocol and subsequent approved modifications readily available
- Lab personnel are listed on, knowledgeable of, and follow approved IACUC protocol
- Lab personnel are aware of animal use training resources

Occupational Health

- Hazard warning signs posted when indicated
- Anesthetic gas delivered and scavenged by appropriate methods
- Sharps disposal
- Lab personnel aware of Occupational Health Program-Laboratory Animals and Biomedical Services (OHP-LABS)

Cleanliness / Safety

- Adequate sanitation/cleanliness of lab & surfaces
- Security measures/controlled access in place
- Proper maintenance of equipment (hoods, vaporizers)
- Gas cylinders secured

Storage

- Hazardous materials, waste material properly contained and labeled
- Carcasses disposed of properly
- Separate areas for human food/drink
- Surgical supplies marked as sterilized/non-sterilized and segregated
- Feed stored in closed container that prevents potential contamination/spoilage; labeled with milling/expiration date
- No cardboard storage on floor in housing or procedure areas

Drugs

- Locked storage for drugs that are controlled substances
- Proper log sheets available and up-to-date
- Procedure in place for identifying, segregating, and disposing of expired drugs and medical supplies

Animal Housing

- Cage/enclosure appropriate to species
- Materials used for animal enclosures and housing room construction are in good condition, with no rust or peeling paint. If wood is used, it should be sealed to provide an impermeable surface that can be easily sanitized.
- If unsealed wooden items are used to enrich the animals' environment as a substrate or structure, they should be replaced when grossly soiled or showing signs of significant deterioration.
- Cage cards are present and have protocol number
- Adequate cleanliness/sanitation (bedding, water)
- Food and water ad libitum unless a written plan and schedule is in place
- Environment is appropriate for species (temperature, humidity, illumination)
- Enrichment/exercise plans followed (as indicated)
- Room monitoring logs available and up-to-date
- Pest control is adequate to protect animals and food

For protocol-related questions, contact the IACUC Program Coordinator at 5-8650.
For technical or training questions, contact the Animal Resources Center at 1-7534.

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All Surgical Procedures

- Anesthetic monitoring documented
- Proper sterilization procedures used for instruments
- Animals properly prepared (i.e., hair clipped, disinfection of surgical site)

Non-Rodent Mammalian Surgical Procedures

- Specific areas for surgeon prep, animal prep, operating room, animal recovery, and sterile storage
- Operating Room cleaned and disinfected prior to and after surgery
- Surgeon scrubs and wears sterile gown and gloves, mask, and other apparel as needed (i.e., eye protection)
- Provide support therapy (ventilation, thermal regulation, fluids)
- Proper analgesics provided as specified in protocol
- Personnel present at all time throughout surgery and early recovery; regular checks thereafter
- Postoperative monitoring documented

**Survival Surgical Procedures in Rodents, Birds,
and Cold-Blooded Vertebrates**

- Low traffic area in lab with no extraneous storage
- Surgeon must wear mask, sterile gloves, and lab coat
- Surfaces cleaned and disinfected prior to and after surgery
- If conducting surgery on multiple animals at the same sitting, gloves and instruments must be disinfected between animals
- Provide support therapy (ventilation, thermal regulation, fluids)
- Proper analgesics provided as specified in protocol
- Personnel present at all time throughout surgery and early recovery; regular checks thereafter
- Postoperative monitoring documented

**Non-Invasive Procedures
and Non-Survival Surgery**

- Anesthetic monitoring documented when sedation/anesthesia administered
- Animals not kept in lab areas for more than 24 hours without specific IACUC approval (12 hours maximum for USDA-covered species such as bats, gerbils, hamsters)
- Soiled cages returned to facility promptly
- Well-maintained area free of hazards to animals used for procedures

Euthanasia

- Is appropriate for species and performed properly
- CO₂ is from compressed gas cylinder with proper regulator (no dry ice)
- Physical methods used without sedation only after formal IACUC review and approval
- Equipment used for physical methods maintained properly

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