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Standard Operating Procedure

1. Purpose

To explain the policy and procedures for providing veterinary care to research and teaching animals at Central Oregon Community College (COCC).

The USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* requires the research facility/institution to provide the Attending Veterinarian (AV) with “appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use” (e.g., husbandry, nutrition, sanitation practices).

2. Scope

Principal Investigators (PIs) must identify methods for provision of veterinary care, including evenings, weekends and holidays, in the Animal Care and Use Protocol. Adequate veterinary care is not limited to caring for sick animals, but includes programs of disease detection and surveillance, prevention, post-operative care, and a variety of other issues.

3. Prerequisites

The Principal Investigator must ensure that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a veterinary care program have been developed and staff have been trained on the SOPs.

4. Responsibilities

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must ensure that adequate veterinary care is provided for research and teaching animals. Adequate veterinary care is not limited to caring for sick animals, but includes programs of disease detection and surveillance, prevention, post-operative care, and a variety of other issues.

The Attending Veterinarian (AV) is responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at an institution. The AV may approve and delegate veterinary care to other veterinarians.

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5. Procedure

Delegation of Veterinary Care:

- The Principal Investigator (PI) submits an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) to the IACUC for approval. The program for veterinary care is described in the protocol, then reviewed and approved by the AV and IACUC prior to procurement of animals.
- If an approved protocol designates a veterinarian other than the Attending Veterinarian as the provider of veterinary care for animals in the research/teaching study, the designated veterinarian must notify the AV by phone or e-mail of any significant animal concerns that are the direct result of an animal care and use protocol or if a significant spontaneously occurring herd or colony health problem occurs.

Clinical Veterinarian Authority:

- All clinical veterinarians responsible for the veterinary care of the teaching and research animals have the authority to treat any animal that needs immediate care to preserve life or alleviate pain, which may include euthanasia.
 - Exceptions may include IACUC-approved projects with death as an endpoint or unalleviated pain/distress or other deviations from humane endpoints.
- The clinical veterinarian or veterinary technician will make a reasonable effort to contact the investigator or their designee prior to administering analgesics, antibiotics, diagnostics, treatments or euthanasia.
 - It is important for investigators to promptly respond to all veterinary communication.
- Upon finding a sick or injured animal, husbandry or laboratory staff will notify the appropriate clinical veterinarian specified in the Animal Care and Use Protocol.
 - The animal will then be assessed by the clinical veterinarian or a veterinary technician in consultation with the clinical veterinarian.
 - The clinical veterinarian or a veterinary technician may euthanize an animal found to be moribund or in severe pain or distress after attempting to contact the investigator or their designee.

Preventive Medicine Programs:

- Disease prevention is the cornerstone for maintaining healthy animals and limiting variables in their environment that may interfere with research.
- Some of the aspects of an effective preventive medicine program include adequate animal biosecurity procedures to prevent the introduction of unknown diseases; provisions for quarantine and stabilization; implementation of disease surveillance

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programs including investigations of unexpected deaths; procedures to minimize stress during handling and restraint; zoonosis prevention; etc.

- The Principal Investigator must ensure that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a preventive medicine program have been developed and staff have been trained on the SOPs.

Sick, Injured and Dead Animals:

- It is the responsibility of everyone working with animals at COCC to report any sick or injured animals to the delegated veterinarian. Reporting must be timely and accurate.
- Records of the diagnosis, testing, delivery of medical treatments, and final resolution must be maintained by the facility or veterinary service.
- Assurance that compliance with study and humane endpoints is very important and recurrent or significant problems should be communicated to the IACUC.
- Unexpected deaths, unexpected or increased mortality must be documented and investigated as potential sources of infection or possible research complication.
- The COCC Attending Veterinarian has the authority to immediately suspend an activity that causes significant animal welfare or health concerns. The AV will immediately notify the IACUC of any such situation.

Medical Records:

- Documentation of provision of adequate veterinary care is important from a regulatory perspective as well as from an animal welfare perspective.
- Medical records standards are described in “Animal Medical Records” (SOP# AV 20-111).

Surgical Procedures and Postsurgical Care:

- There are many factors that contribute to successful surgical outcomes.
 - Appropriate training on good surgical technique is crucial. No one is allowed to perform surgery without demonstrating that they are adequately trained to perform the specific techniques they intend to perform.
 - Pre-surgical planning is necessary to ensure all procedures from before the surgery starts to the point where animals recover and sutures are removed are performed at a high level of efficiency to minimize or eliminate pain or distress.
 - Surgical facilities appropriate for the procedure and the species must be utilized. All surgical facilities must be approved by the IACUC prior to first use and inspected on at least a six month interval thereafter.

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Pain and Distress:

- Recognition, prevention, and alleviation of pain and distress are important and integral responsibilities for everyone working with animals.
- Training in the recognition of species-specific signs of pain is essential.
- One should assume that a procedure that causes pain in humans will also cause pain in animals.
- Preemptive analgesics should always be given before a procedure is performed that is expected to cause more than momentary pain, unless medically contraindicated or if IACUC exempted based on scientific necessity.
- If unanticipated pain that is more than momentary is recognized, relief of pain must be initiated promptly.
- Consideration for minimizing the duration and intensity of distress must be included when planning the use of animals on a protocol. Humane use of animals dictates minimizing or eliminating factors that lead to distress.
 - In addition, stress can cause significant physiological alterations which may negatively impact research.

Euthanasia:

- Unless an IACUC exemption is given for scientific reasons, the methods for euthanasia for all species should be consistent with the most current edition of the *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*.
- Individuals performing euthanasia must be trained and proficient in the methods of euthanasia.
- Animals that are to be euthanized for experimental purposes must comply with methods described in the IACUC-approved protocol.
- Animals euthanized for medical reasons must be euthanized following the AVMA recommendations.

6. References

1. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources: Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals, National Academy Press, Eighth Edition (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910).
2. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations. United States Department of Agriculture, 2013 (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal%20Care%20Blue%20Book%20-%202013%20-%20FINAL.pdf).

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3. National Institutes of Health: Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>).
4. The Federation of Animal Science Societies: Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 3rd Edition, 2010 (http://www.fass.org/docs/agguide3rd/Ag_Guide_3rd_ed.pdf).
5. AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>).
6. Animal Medical Records (SOP# AV 20-111).

7. Definitions

1. AV – Attending Veterinarian – responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at the institution
2. AVMA – American Veterinary Medical Association – a not-for-profit organization for advancing the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health
3. SOP – Standard Operating Procedure – established or prescribed methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations
4. IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee – responsible for assessment and oversight of the institution’s animal care program components and facilities
5. Chair – Chairperson of the IACUC
6. PI – Principal Investigator – a Central Oregon Community College employee having the background and training in scientific and administrative oversight necessary to conduct and manage the proposed study
7. AUP – Animal Care and Use Protocol – protocol created by the principal investigator of the proposed research, testing, or educational study
8. Protocol – Animal Care and Use Protocol – protocol created by the principal investigator of the proposed research, testing, or educational study
9. COCC – Central Oregon Community College
10. Guide – the *Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals*
11. AWA – Animal Welfare Act – requires that minimum standards of care and treatment be provided for certain animals bred for commercial sale, used in research, transported commercially, or exhibited to the public
12. PHS – Public Health Service – establishes guidelines for the proper care of animals to be used in research
13. Clinical veterinarian – the Attending Veterinarian or designee



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Revision	Author	Revisions Made	Effective Date	Approval
1	Cindy Elston	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New SOP	5/31/16	Cindy Elston (AV)
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