

# Standing Committee Annual Report

**Name of Committee or Council:** University Animal Care and Use Committee (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IACUC)

**Chair:** Gilbert Pitts, Ph.D.

## Meeting Dates for 2009-2010:

Nov 16, 2009 - Inspection of Clement, Sundquist and farm animal facilities  
Regular meeting  
Semiannual IACUC program review

May 10, 2010 - Inspection of Clement, Sundquist and farm animal facilities  
Regular meeting  
Semiannual IACUC program review  
Standing Committee Annual Report

## Major Actions & Accomplishments

**ANIMAL PROTOCOL REVIEWS:** Reviewed 7 new animal protocols. We are currently monitoring 30 protocols.

**ANIMAL FACILITY INSPECTIONS:** Inspected all animal facilities where animals are housed on campus for search and teaching to ensure that housing and care meet federal standards. The only major deficiency in this area is the Sundquist Science Complex animal facility which still can't be used to capacity due to each animal room not being on individual light and HVAC control and doors being too small for the large racks to be moved through. Animals may only be used on a case by case basis.

**WEBSITE:** Continued to update the IACUC website, [www.apsu.edu/iacuc](http://www.apsu.edu/iacuc)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** Committee membership is mandated by both APSU policy and federal guidelines. This year (08-09) the following individuals served on this committee: Andrew Barrass (Biology/CEFB), Amy Bishop (Community rep.), Brian Hock (Psychology), Ben Howard (veterinarian), Karen Meisch (Biology), Emily Parrish (student rep), Gilbert Pitts (Chair), Philenese Slaughter (non-scientist), and Don Sudbrink (Agriculture). The Chair wishes to thank the committee members very much for all their hard work. The Chair also thanks Beth Hoilman for her work in maintaining records for this committee.

## Committee Recommendations to APSU Administration

### Introduction

The work of this committee is guided by *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, NIH) and by *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agriculture Research and Teaching* (Federation of Animal Science Societies). These guides require institutions to adhere certain standards of animal care and use in the conduct of research involving animals. The basic requirements for a compliant institutional program are outlined in our Semi-Annual Program Review Checklist which is attached to this document. Compliance with the standards set out by these two guides not only

allows an institution to be eligible for funding from agencies such as NIH, NSF, and USDA but also assures the wider community that research and teaching with animals at APSU is conducted ethically and conscientiously.

#### Concerns

This faculty committee has worked diligently over the past several years to bring APSU's animal program up to full compliance with these standards and we feel that the program is 80% there. One area that still needs work is Occupational Health and Safety of Personnel.

Of particular concern are the following items:

- 1) *Personnel training in zoonosis, hazards, pregnancy/illness/immune-suppression precautions*
- 2) *Pre-employment evaluation of health history*
- 3) *Immunizations as appropriate (Eg. Rabies, tetanus) & tests*
- 4) *Zoonosis surveillance as appropriate*
- 5) *Procedures for reporting and treating injuries, including bites, etc.*

The committee has identified several existing policies in APSU's Policies and Procedures Manual that address some items in this area. The relevant policies are listed below:

[APSU Safety Policy](#)

[APSU TOSHA Policy](#)

[Hazardous Materials Policy](#)

[APSU Hepatitis Policy](#)

However, the committee's does not know if anyone at the Physical Plant, Student Health Services, or Office of Grants and Sponsored Research is actively implementing these policies and maintaining the records required to demonstrate compliance with these policies.

Currently, the committee is posting on the IACUC website information on zoonotic diseases and depending upon individual investigators to ensure that all personnel on a given project have been informed of zoonosis and other hazards and are immunized if appropriate.

#### Recommendations

The committee strongly recommends that Krissy Shepherd, the Manager of Environmental Health and Safety be added to the IACUC committee membership next year as an Ex-Officio member in order to improve OSHA compliance.

Further the committee recommends that APSU develop a procedure, perhaps through Health Services, to be able to offer individuals who work with animals pre-work health screening, health monitoring, and vaccinations if appropriate. We are particularly concerned about the health of APSU employees working with animals such as bats. These people require rabies vaccinations and it would be extremely helpful if health services would provide these.