

Clemson University
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Policy Number: 2.9

Policy Title: Policy on Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC)

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the changes to previously approved animal protocols that may be approved by consultation with the Attending or Associate Veterinarian, in accordance with NIH notice NOT-OD-14-126.

Section 2: Scope

This policy applies to all approved and active AUPs. All changes to approved Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) require an amendment submitted to the IACUC, per policy 2.6.

Section 3: Policy

VVC approval (within the parameters defined in this policy) may occur prior to the submission of an amendment, but all VVC approved changes require an amendment form be completed and submitted to the IACUC office. Failure to submit an amendment will be considered noncompliance.

VVC may also be initiated at the time of receipt of an amendment request by the IACUC Office.

The veterinarian may refer any VVC request to the IACUC for review for any reason. Significant changes that may not be handled administratively by VVC and must undergo either full committee or designated member review include but are not limited to those in IACUC Policy 2.6.

The following significant changes are reviewed by the Attending or Associate Veterinarian and the IACUC Administrator before a decision is made to proceed with VVC. VVC eligible changes include the following:

1. Changes to compounds or dosage of anesthesia, analgesia, sedation, or experimental substances within drug formularies referenced in the Office of Animal Resources (OAR) Drug Dosage Guide, and other sources listed below. Examples of changes which may be approved under this category are:
 - a. A change in dosage, route, frequency, or duration within acceptable veterinary parameters
 - b. Switching from one analgesic, anesthetic, or sedative agent to another within acceptable veterinary parameters
 - c. Changing the dosage, timing, or route of an experimental substance if the change will not increase the potential for animal pain or distress.
2. Change in euthanasia method to any method approved in the current AVMA guidelines.

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3. Change in duration, frequency, number, and type of procedures performed, within the referenced guidance of this policy. Typical examples under this category may include:
 - a. Change in the duration, frequency, or number of procedures listed in the approved AUP, if the change will not increase the potential for animal pain or distress
 - b. Change of surgery from survival to non-survival
 - c. Modifying a procedure approved in the AUP to reduce animal discomfort or complications
 - d. Change from a more invasive to a less invasive procedure.
4. An increase in animal numbers by less than 10% of the number of animals originally approved to allow the PI to achieve the original study objectives.
5. Change in housing and or use of animals in a location or in moving the housing to another IACUC approved location.
6. Change in animal source.
7. Change in the acclimation period if there is no impact on the science.
8. Change in breed or strain of study animal.

The Attending or Associate Veterinarian is not conducting DMR but is serving as a subject matter expert to verify that the proposed change is appropriate for the animals in this circumstance. Consultation with the veterinarian must be documented.

The veterinarian may refer any VVC request to the IACUC for review for any reason. These changes can only be made if the change fits within the original rationale and objectives of the study.

References

Clemson University Animal Welfare Assurance, D16-00435(A3737-03) approved July 14, 2022

NOT-OD-14-126, *Guidance on Significant Changes to Animal Studies*

IACUC Policy 2.6, *Changes to Animal Activities Previously Approved by the IACUC (Amendments to AUPs)*

Office of Animal Resources Drug Dosage Guide, est. July 2022

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) *Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals*, 2020 Edition

Saunders Handbook of Veterinary Drugs, 4th Edition. Small and Large Animal. Elsevier

Removal of blood from laboratory mammals and birds. *Laboratory Animals* (1993) **27**, 1-22

IACUC Policy 2.7, *Reviewing Protocols with Food and Fluid Restrictions, Non Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds, or Prolonged Restraint*

IACUC Policy 4.2, *Tumor Inoculation in Rodents*

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