

Animal Research at UTHSCH

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Animal Welfare Committee Office

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>



What is an IACUC?

- The **I**nstitutional **A**nimal **C**are and **U**se **C**ommittee
 - Known locally as the Animal Welfare Committee or **AWC**
 - Ensures that all vertebrate animals used for research are treated ethically and humanely.
- Members include:
 - Veterinarians
 - Practicing scientists experienced in animal research
 - Non-scientists
 - Non-affiliated members



Animal Care Regulations

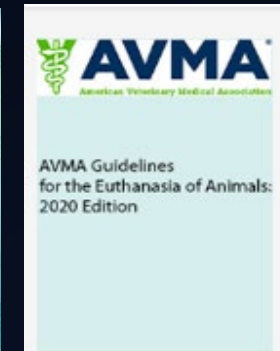
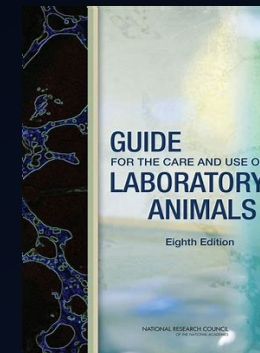
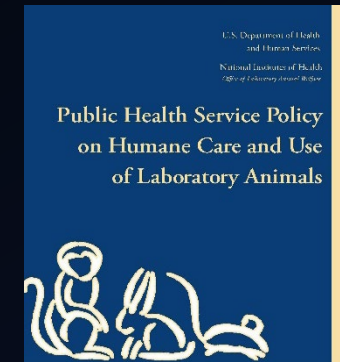
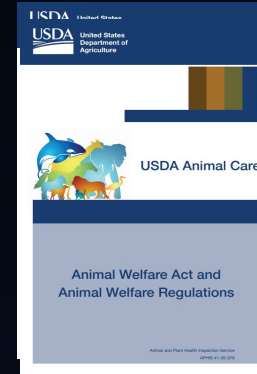
Animal Welfare Act (AWA)
Public Health Service (PHS) Policy

Federal Agencies
(USDA-APHIS, NIH-OLAW)

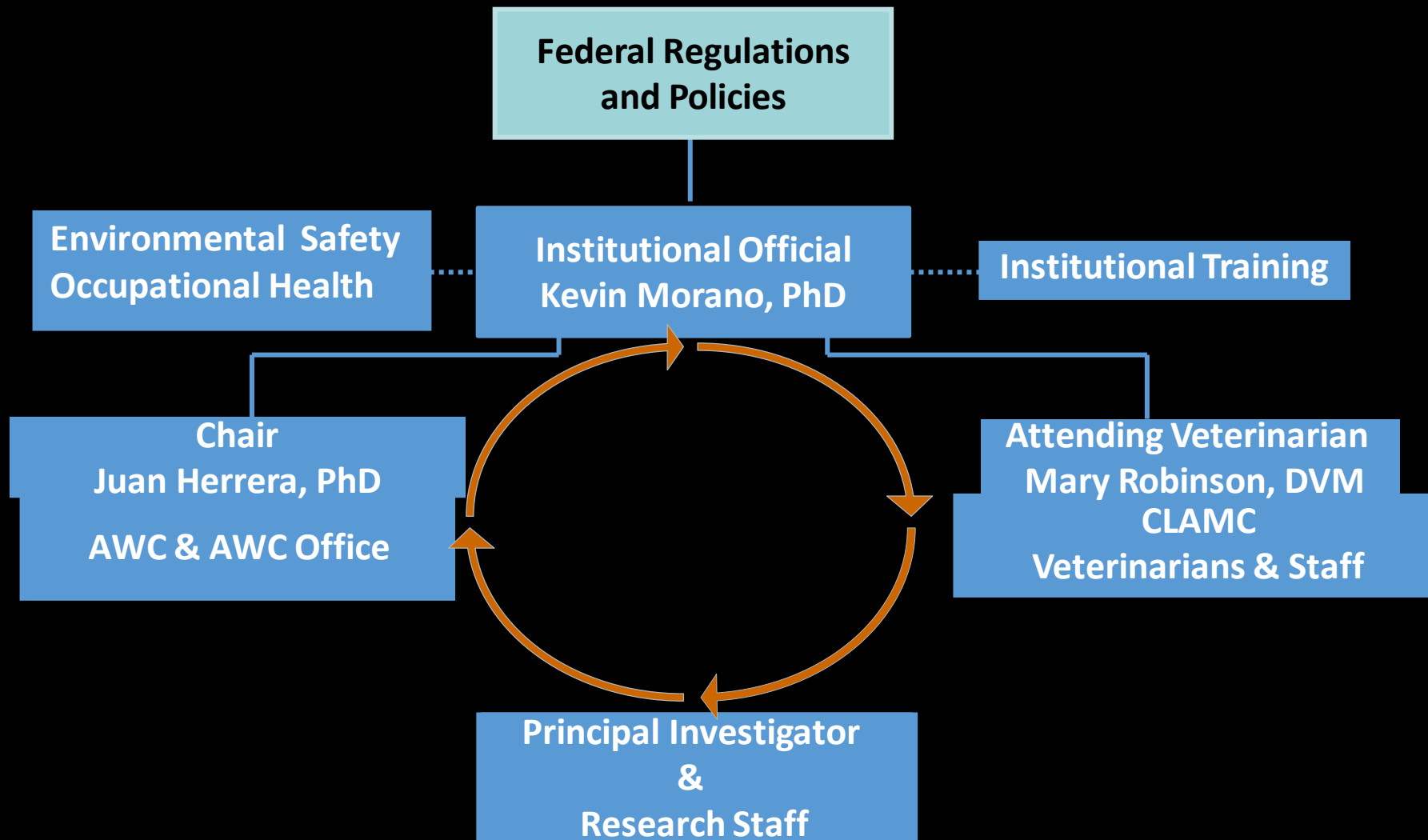
-The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
-American Veterinarians Medical Association (AVMA)
Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
- AAALAC Accreditation Program

AWC, Veterinarians, Researchers

Animal Welfare & Safety



UTHealth Animal Use and Care Program



When is an AWC animal protocol required?

- Covers all animal activities performed at UTHealth facilities
- All animal activities, even off site, where UTHealth funds are used to purchase the research animals
- Production of custom antibodies
- Tissue harvest protocols with antemortem manipulations

Requirements to conduct research

- Approved animal protocol-PI must be a faculty member
- Completion of CLAMC training
- Enrollment in Occupational Health Program
- Approval for the use of chemical, biological or radioactive agents
 - SCRO approval for the use of human stem cell in animals
- Disclosure of Research Conflicts of Interest
- Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals

Animal Protocol Submission

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

<https://iris.uth.tmc.edu>

Resources for Animal Researchers

▶ Investigator Training

iCARE Resources

iRIS Links

Animal Research FAQs

Log In

iRIS *Integrated Research Information Software*



User ID:

Password:

Log In

System/Browser Requirements

For iRIS assistance, call 713-500-7960. For password problems, call the Help Desk at 713-486-4848. System timeout after 120 minutes. SAVE your work!

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AWC Considerations for Animal Use

- The rationale provided for using animals
 - What is the significance of this research that can justify animal use?
- Appropriateness of the species
 - Why use this species? Justification for the number of animals to be used
- Were alternatives considered for this research?
 - Minimize the pain and suffering of the animals used
 - Adequacy of training and experience of personnel
 - Description and rationale for anticipated or selected endpoints

AWC website resources-Policies for Animal Research

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

Resources for Animal Researchers

Policies for Animal Research

Occupational Health Program for
Personnel with Animal Exposure

Reporting Animal Welfare

Concerns

Contact Us

- Non-pharmaceutical Grade Compound (NPG) Policy
- Prolonged Restraint Policy
- Rabbit Environmental Enrichment Policy
- **Rodent Survival Surgery Policy**
- Rodent Tail Clipping Policy
- Rodent Toe Clipping Policy
- **Rodent Tumor Policy**

AWC website resources-Breeding Calculator

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

Forms and Resources

Resources for Animal Researchers

Forms and Resources

Resources for Investigators

	Number of mice needed for experiments	Years remaining in project	Sexes needed	Surplus mice	% of useable genotypes	Average pups per litter	Average litters per female	Total number per strain (incl surplus)	Total number for breeding
	500	3	Both	10%	25.0%	6	4		
A.			Both						0
B.			Both						
C.			Both						
D.			Both						
E.			Both						
F.			Both						

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Protocol Review Timeline



AWC website resources

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

Resources for Animal Researchers

Protocol Guidelines and Meeting Dates

AWC Review Fees

Forms and Resources

Policies for Animal Research

Suggested Initial Submission Date	Return Responses to Pre-Review by	For Review on (AWC meeting)
October 4, 2023	October 16, 2023	October 27, 2023
October 25, 2023	November 6, 2023	November 17, 2023
November 22, 2023	December 4, 2023	December 15, 2023
January 3, 2024	January 15, 2024	January 26, 2024
January 31, 2024	February 12, 2024	February 23, 2024

What happens post-approval?

- Post-approval monitoring visits
- Amendments
 - New personnel, new strains, experiments & procedures
- Report adverse events & protocol deviations
- 3-year renewal

AWC website resources-Grant Guidance

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

Resources for Animal Researchers

[iCARE Resources](#)

[iRIS Links](#)

[Animal Research FAQs](#)

[Grant Guidance](#)

Grant Guidance

Application Information

- AAALAC Accreditation Current Status and Date: Full Accreditation (Unit 000455), March 1, 2021.
- Original date of AAALAC accreditation: May 31, 1978
- PHS Assurance Number: A3413-01 or D16-00257, either number is acceptable
- USDA Registration Number: 74-R-0068
- NIH Guidance for Completion of the Vertebrate Animal Section for [grants](#) and [contracts](#) .
- Description of the Animal Care and Use Resources and Program is provided on the [CLAMC](#) link.

AWC website resources-Grant Guidance

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Resources for Animal Researchers

iCARE Resources

iRIS Links

Animal Research FAQs

Grant Guidance

If the animal work proposed in the grant is already covered by an approved AWC animal protocol

If the research goals and animal procedures proposed in the grant is mostly covered by an approved AWC Animal Protocol for the same species of animals but with some variations (anesthesia, experimental groups, strains of animals, euthanasia methods, etc)

If the animal work proposed in the grant is not covered by an approved AWC Animal Protocol

If some or all of the animal work proposed in the grant is to be conducted at another institution

AWC website resources-FAQs

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

Resources for Animal Researchers

iRIS Links

Animal Research FAQs

Grant Guidance

Protocol Guidelines and Meeting
Dates

Animal Research FAQs

Questions for the Animal Welfare Committee? Contact us at 713-500-3625 or
via email awc@uth.tmc.edu.

Who can be the Principal Investigator on a protocol? ↓

Where can I find the animal protocol application? ↓

How do I make an amendment/change to my already approved animal protocol? ↓

How do I get access to iRIS? ↓

When are protocol applications due? ↓

When do I have to renew my animal research application? ↓

How do I add new personnel to my protocol? ↓

Where do I find information about animal training courses? ↓

How do I obtain CLAMC animal resource facility access? ↓

How do I add a title or new Grant agency to my protocol approval letter? ↓

Who can I contact with questions regarding animal protocols? ↓

AWC website resources-FAQs

<https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research>

Research Facilities

▶ Facility Inspections

▶ Investigator Training

iCARE Resources

iRIS Links

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Forms and Resources

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Occupational Health Program for
Personnel with Animal

Exposure 

Reporting Employee Injuries or

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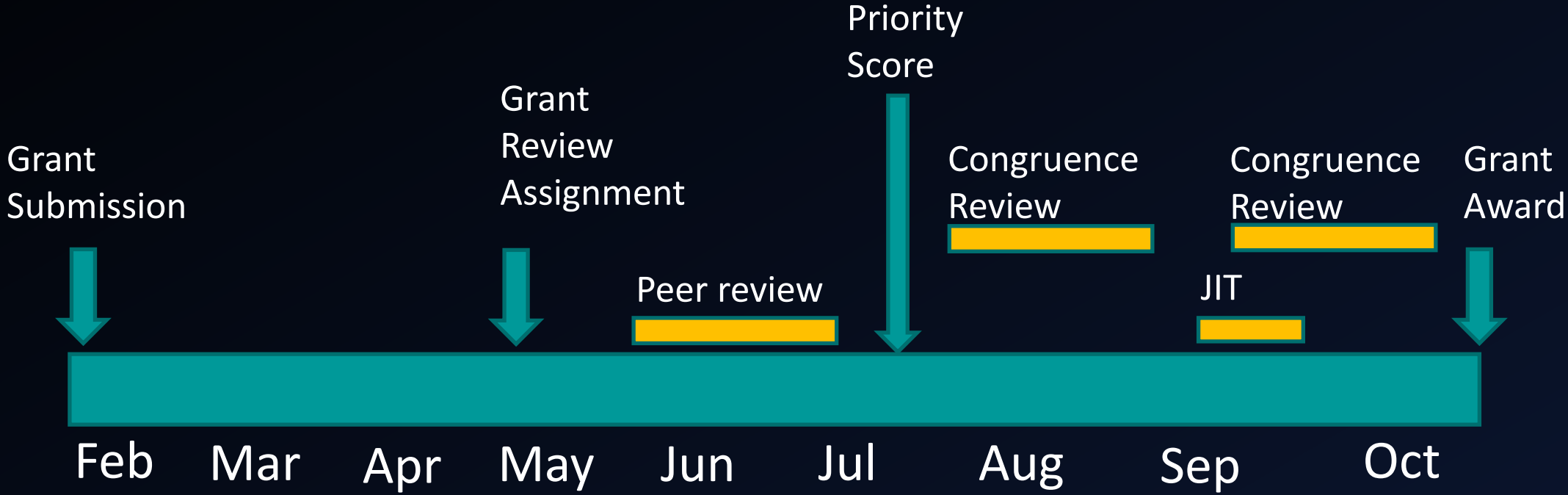


You will need to complete an “AWC - Change request form” in iRIS and attach a copy of your grant submission [Face Page, Research Strategy and VAS]. All of the experiments described in your grant must be listed in an approved protocol in order for the new title to be added. If there are experiments in the grant that do not match the animal research protocol, then you will need to add those experiments to an existing protocol by including them in your change request or provide an explanation for the omission. Even if there are no discrepancies, a change request form should be submitted to add the new title and granting agency. Along with the completed form, you will need to attach a copy of the grant to your iRIS submission. Multiple grants may support a single protocol. Alternatively, experiments from a single grant may be approved on multiple AWC protocols. Contact the AWC office for assistance.

Grant Congruency-Does the AWC protocol match the grant?

- Satisfy the requirements of the PHS Policy & NIH grants policy
 - General scope of the work
 - Experimental procedures and endpoints
 - Species
 - Euthanasia Method
 - Approximate number of animals
- Grant animal activities \neq Animal Protocol Activities
 - Amend protocol to be consistent with grant
 - Inform NIH if procedure will not be conducted as originally proposed

Typical Timeline for Grant Submission



Contact Information

AWC Office: (713) 500-3625, awc@uth.tmc.edu

AWC website: <https://uth.edu/animal-research/>

CLAMC main line: (713) 500-7728, acare@uth.tmc.edu

iRIS helpline: (713) 500-7960, option #2

