

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Lake Forest College
Guidelines on Committee Procedures

Mission of the IACUC

The function of the Lake Forest College IACUC is to ensure humane treatment of animals used in research and teaching in college facilities. The committee evaluates and approves proposals for research and teaching activities involving vertebrate animals in college facilities and ensures that the treatment, care and housing of the animals is humane and adequate. Criteria for approving activities involving animals include evidence that (1) pain and distress to the animals are minimized and adequate care and living conditions are provided, (2) the use of animals can be justified by providing original research results or by providing a learning experience for students, and (3) the number of animals used to achieve the stated research or learning goals are adequate but not excessive. In general, the committee does not attempt to pass judgment on the quality of the research or pedagogy involved.

Committee Composition

The composition of the committee shall include the following:

1. Two faculty members familiar with the use of animals in research and teaching;
2. One faculty member with a background in ethics;
3. A practicing veterinarian.

Committee Procedures

The committee follows the guidelines published in APHIS, USDA title 9, chapter I, subchapter A. The following procedures are adapted from these guidelines.

As detailed in points (a) through (g) below, the committee should meet at least once per year to review the animal care program, to discuss new proposals for projects involving the use of animals, to discuss any issues regarding the use of animals or committee procedures, and to tour the animal facilities. Any of these functions may be carried out by a subcommittee of at least two members.

Specific committee functions include:

- (a) annual review of the College's program for humane care and use of animals (i.e., the points listed in the beginning of each semester report; may be carried out by a subcommittee consisting of at least two members);
- (b) annual inspection of the College's animal facilities (may be carried out by a subcommittee consisting of at least two members);
- (c) review and investigation of any concerns involving animals at the College (meeting of majority of full committee required);
- (e) pertinent recommendations to the Institutional Official;
- (f) review of newly proposed activities involving animals or modifications to previously approved proposals, preferably through a full committee meeting at the start of a semester in which activities are to occur or by email with signatures of majority of committee members obtained (*note*: approved proposals remain approved unless significant changes are needed or requested);

- (g) suspension of any previously approved activities that a majority of quorum of the committee determines are not being conducted as approved in a prior meeting.

Role of the Chair

In order for the committee to carry out its functions, the chair needs to do the following:

1. Contact appropriate department chairs or individual faculty members to solicit new proposals for projects involving vertebrate animals. This should be done as early as possible in a semester, or at the end of the previous semester.
2. Contact committee members and set up a meeting. The meeting needs to occur as early in the semester as possible so that new proposals can be reviewed and approved prior to the initiation of new projects involving animals.
3. Conduct the meeting considering items of business along the lines of those listed above.
4. Periodically check with USDA (see the APHIS website) to determine if any changes in regulations would necessitate immediate registration. Specifically, rats and mice may soon become covered species.
5. Ensure that there is an attending veterinarian as a committee member.
6. Be prepared to call an extra meeting or to send proposals to committee members for comments and approval should the need arise between the regular semi-annual meetings.
7. Maintain electronic records of approved proposals.

Role of the Veterinarian

The veterinarian's role includes attending committee meetings, touring facilities, evaluating proposals, assisting with animal care procedures, providing advice on treating illness, and assisting with or observing surgery.

Justification for use of Animals

The committee uses the following criteria in judging whether proposed activities (teaching or research) involving vertebrate animals should be approved:

- A. Research use. For research proposals, the following criteria are currently used by the to determine if the proposed use of animals is appropriate and justified:
 1. Anticipated results of research will yield new findings.
 2. Procedures minimize pain, stress and risk of injury or death experienced by animals.
 3. Number of animals used is the minimum needed for statistically valid results (but enough individuals for statistical validity should be used). This does not apply to pilot studies.
 4. There is no adequate alternative to using animals to address the research questions.
- B. Teaching use. For instructional proposals, the criteria differ from those used to evaluate research proposals:
 1. The procedure will help students understand the process involved in obtaining new or classic research results. In student-designed projects as well as traditional laboratory

exercises, such learning goals are quite likely to replace the goal of obtaining results new to science, and there is often pedagogical value in repeating previous experiments.

2. The procedure may provide some students with practical skills they will need in future studies, research or their professional career, but this need not be the primary goal, given our liberal arts setting.
 3. The number of animals used may be less than would be needed for statistically significant results in a research context. If a primary goal includes obtaining analyzable data to expose students to the full process of science, then an appropriate number of animals to ensure this should be used.
 4. The goals discussed in 1 and 2 are likely to be realized through at least some use of procedures with real animals, but supplemental use of alternative materials is also worth considering. In some cases there are no alternatives to use of real animals that provide the desired learning experience to students.
- C. Reasons that the committee might recommend a proposal be denied or a project be discontinued might include the following:
1. The veterinarian has found that the procedures are not being performed up to professional standards.
 2. A majority of the committee has found that the activity has not been well enough justified in terms of research or teaching goals.
 3. Student feedback on the activity is consistently negative, and the instructor is unable to demonstrate that the activity is promoting effective learning.

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