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Protocol Preparation Advice

DLAR staff is always available to consult with investigators on the preparation of research protocols for submission to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). If you are designing a project which may involve new techniques, novel species, unfamiliar anesthetic requirements, post-procedural care or other matters that you would like some guidance on, we welcome your questions.

Additional resources can be made available which give guidance on blood collection protocols, standard procedures for surgical preparations, antibody production, breeding colonies, regulations and other common activities. Contacting DLAR in advance will also help to determine if special housing or space requirements are available when the proposed work is intended to commence.

Some investigators also may prefer to have certain procedures done or assisted by DLAR staff, which can be discussed in advance of a protocol submission. If a project involves specialized acquisitions of animals from non-commercial vendors, we can also offer guidance on the requirements for pre-screening these animals for health status, and anticipate whether there may be special requirements needed to assure their transition from the providing institution into DLAR facilities. In some cases, commercial vendors may provide common surgical models which can obviate the necessity of engaging in that surgical activity before the actual research phase of a project can begin.

While we cannot assure that the IACUC will not have other informational requirements during the approval process, our goal is to help to avoid delays which may arise from unfamiliarity with the protocol approval/animal acquisition process.

For more specific information about preparing protocols please call the DLAR office at Ext. 4310.

Abaxis Blood Chemistry and Hematology equipment is available for use in the DLAR HSC facility. Contact Merle Heineke or Kathy Goans if you would like to be certified to use the equipment. The chem panel requires only a few drops of blood for a standard 12 value report. For more details about this equipment visit www.abaxis.com and read about the VetScan VS2 and HM5 analyzers. Investigators may purchase their own chem. “rotors” (a round, disposable plastic component into which the sample is injected) or purchase them from DLAR. Rotors are available for mammals (complete profile, liver profile) and birds and reptiles. The hematology unit is designed for mammals only.