AAALAC Site Visitors Compliment UT Research Programs

Representatives from the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) visited the University of Toledo on November 19-20. Our programs started to be accredited with this organization in the early 1980s and this represents an ongoing opportunity to maintain a high, measurable standard of research animal care.

While the formal report of the visit will take several months to arrive, the visitors met with UT administrators in an exit briefing and informed us that they were very pleased with the continued high program standard achieved by researchers, staff and faculty at the University and would be recommending full, continued accreditation to the AAALAC Council.

The success of this 3-year accreditation cycle visit is due to the efforts and diligence of the dedicated stakeholders in UT’s biomedical research and teaching enterprises. It represents considerable efforts by individuals and the UT Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Other units contributing to the success of this accreditation include University administrators, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, Facilities and Maintenance, Safety & Health, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and of course the husbandry staff of the Dept. of Laboratory Animal Resources.

The accreditation encompasses all research programs involving animal use throughout the University of Toledo system, which includes the Main Campus, Health Sciences Campus and the Lake Erie Center.

Congratulations and thanks for everyone’s efforts in making this a rewarding experience.

Phillip T. Robinson, MS, DVM, DACZM

For additional information or questions about this site visit, please contact:

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What is AAALAC?

AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. AAALAC stands for the "Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care."

More than 800 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 32 countries have earned AAALAC accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use. These institutions volunteer to participate in AAALAC’s program, in addition to complying with the local, state and federal laws that regulate animal research.

Some of the institutions that have earned AAALAC accreditation include the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, The American Red Cross, and the National Institutes of Health.

Why is AAALAC's role important?

For some, animal research is a controversial topic. But like others in the animal welfare arena, AAALAC endorses the use of animals to advance medicine and science when there are no non-animal alternatives, and when it is done in an ethical and humane way.

When animals are used, AAALAC works with institutions and researchers to serve as a bridge between progress and animal well-being. This is done through AAALAC’s voluntary accreditation process in which research programs demonstrate that they meet the minimum standards required by law, and are also going the extra step to achieve excellence in animal care and use.