



SUBJECT: Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) Guideline

DATE: July 17, 2019

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### **Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) Guideline**

The National Institutes of Health have provided guidance (NOT-OD-14-126) on the allowance of certain types of significant changes to animal activities previously approved by the IACUC that may be administratively approved using Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC).

The Attending Veterinarian (AV) will determine if a requested change meets the criteria below for VVC review. If so, the requested change to an IACUC-approved protocol will be reviewed and approved by the AV. The AV is not conducting designated member review (DMR), but is serving as a subject matter expert to verify that compliance with the IACUC-reviewed and – approved guidance is appropriate for the animals in the circumstance. The AV will retain the discretion to send any requested changes to either DMR or full committee review (FCR) as appropriate. All changed approved by VVC will be reported to the IACUC at the next committee meeting.

#### VVC Criteria

Significant changes within the following categories **cannot** be approved by VVC:

1. from non-survival to survival surgery;
2. resulting in greater pain, distress, or degree of invasiveness;
3. in housing or use of animals in locations not approved by the IACUC;
4. in species;
5. in study objectives;
6. in Principle Investigator (PI);
7. that impact personnel safety.

Significant changes that **may** be approved by VVC (provided that they meet the defined criteria above):

1. in the proposed method of euthanasia;
2. requests to add additional animals,
  - a. provided the proposed increase is not more than 10% of the original number approved and when combined with all previously approved requests for additional animals, it does not constitute a greater than 30% increase over the original number approved;
3. requests to house animals in facilities outside DLAR,
  - a. provided that the change does not involve a USDA species and,
  - b. the space is already approved by the IACUC;
4. changes in anesthesia, analgesia, or sedation,
  - a. provided that changes are only to agents, routes, and dosages listed in the formularies listed below;

5. change in status of the animal prior to receipt in DLAR (i.e. surgical procedure) from outside source, i.e. surgery for insertion of indwelling catheter or ovariectomy;
6. change in final disposition of animals, i.e. transfer to another approved IACUC protocol rather than euthanasia;
7. refinement of procedure during terminal surgery;

### Other Changes

The following changes may be approved by IACUC Administrative personnel:

1. correction in typographical and formatting errors;
2. correction in grammar;
3. changes in personnel (except for PI)

### Formularies

AVMA Guideline for the Euthanasia of Animals, 2013.

Flecknell's Laboratory Animal Anesthesia, 4th edition

Swine in the Laboratory, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

University of Toledo DLAR Veterinary Recommendations for Anesthesia and Analgesia

Carpenter's Exotic Animal Formulary, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

ACLAM series, Anesthesia and Analgesia in Laboratory Animals, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition