

## **AAALAC's Expectations for Implementing the 2011 *Guide*; Temporary Suggestions for Improvement**

**AAALAC International has determined that institutions will be granted a phase-in period to make the necessary program modifications to conform with new "must" statements in the 8th Edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, NRC 2011. For a period of one year from AAALAC's implementation of the 2011 *Guide* (i.e., until September 1, 2012), new "must" statements will be categorized as a "Temporary Suggestion for Improvement." If your institution received a Temporary Suggestion for Improvement following your most recent site visit, you must address the concern in post site visit communication, by independent correspondence, or in your Annual Report (if it is submitted prior to September 1, 2012). Although your accreditation status will not initially be impacted by findings classified as Temporary Suggestions for Improvement, Council will review your response to these items and advise if the response is satisfactory or if additional actions may be necessary. By the conclusion of this one year transition period, it is expected that corrective actions will be complete and that the issue has been resolved. Temporary Suggestions for Improvement remaining uncorrected on September 1, 2012 will be considered Mandatory items for correction in accordance with the *Guide* and may affect your accreditation status.**

**The single exception to this timetable is that the phase-in period for significant equipment replacement (such as rabbit cages to accommodate 16" cage height and nonhuman primate caging) is extended to three years (i.e., until September 1, 2014). AAALAC recognizes that, depending on the number of cages needing to be replaced, accredited institutions may not have all cages replaced to meet the 2011 *Guide* standards within the three year period. In such a case, the institution will be expected to provide AAALAC with a plan and a deadline for implementation of the plan. Equipment concerns not addressed and observed during the next site visit will be classified as Mandatory items for correction in accordance with the *Guide*.**

### **Using the 2011 *Guide* in the conduct of semiannual program reviews and facility inspections**

The Council on Accreditation's implementation of AAALAC's Three Primary Standards, including the 2011 *Guide*, began with site visits conducted during the Fall Trimester 2011. Institutions participating in the AAALAC International accreditation program have one year to implement changes to their animal care and use programs (i.e., September 1, 2012) related to most new "must" statements in the 2011 *Guide*. During this year-long period of transition, Council expects that at least one program review and facility inspection will be conducted by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (or comparable oversight body) using the 2011 *Guide*.