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 to any method approved in the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals;
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. changes in anesthesia, analgesia, or sedation,
a. provided that changes are only to agents, routes, and dosages listed in the formularies listed below;

Other Changes

The following changes may be approved by IACUC Administrative personnel:

1. Room changes, change in location for field studies
2. correction in typographical and formatting errors;
3. correction in grammar;
4. changes in personnel (except for PI)

Formularies

Flecknell’s Laboratory Animal Anesthesia, 4th edition
Swine in the Laboratory, 3rd edition
University of Toledo DLAR Veterinary Recommendations for Anesthesia and Analgesia
Carpenter’s Exotic Animal Formulary, 5th edition
ACLAM series, Anesthesia and Analgesia in Laboratory Animals, 2nd edition