



Inspection Report

University of Alabama at Birmingham
720 ADMINISTRATION BLDG
1530 3RD AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35294

Customer ID: **832**
Certificate: **64-R-0004**
Site: 001
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 03-MAY-2023

2.31(b)(3)(ii)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The community/non-affiliated member only attended 4 of the last 12 IACUC meetings (March 2022-March 2023). The facility does not have an alternate community member. Chronic nonattendance by the community/non-affiliated member means that the IACUC does not have a member to provide representation of the general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals.

The facility shall ensure that the IACUC includes a community member that is not affiliated in any way with the facility other than as a member of the IACUC and is regularly involved in IACUC functions to represent the general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals. Correct by 7/5/23.

2.31(d)(1)(ii)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The written narratives for four protocols reviewed describe a literature search for alternatives focusing on the science being studied, but the search did not address all of the painful/distressful procedures described in the protocols. The first three protocols (20066, 20212, and 22411) describe a craniotomy surgery, restraint, water restriction and multiple other surgeries. The fourth protocol (20232) describes a potentially distressful procedure (restraint). The consideration of alternatives for these protocols did not address these procedures.

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Inspection Report

The searches were therefore not adequate to determine that alternatives were not available. In order to approve proposed activities, the IACUC shall determine that the principal investigator has considered alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals and has provided a written narrative description of the methods and sources used to determine that alternatives were not available. Correct by 9/30/23.

2.31(e)(2)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Multiple protocols reviewed do not contain a rationale for the number of animals to be used. Protocol 22672 simply states the number of animals to be used in each group but gives no explanation or rationale for the numbers. Protocol 20066 and 20212 state that the number of animals requested is 20 and 38 respectively but the written rationale does not explain the request for these numbers. The rationales state that 2-4 animals (20066) or 3-6 animals (20212) are necessary to publish. The references identified list these same lower numbers. An animal use proposal must include a rationale for the appropriateness of the numbers of animals to be used so that the IACUC can conduct a thorough review of the components of the activities related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed activities are in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act. The proposal to conduct an activity involving animals must contain a rationale for the numbers of animals to be used. Correct by 9/30/23.

2.32(a)

Personnel qualifications.

In March 2022 IACUC meeting minutes state that the facility self-identified that a lab member used isoflurane to sedate and restrain six animals for a protocol approved injection as the lab member did not feel comfortable handling and injecting the awake animals. The minutes state there was no negative impact on the animals. The use of the isoflurane for sedation was not approved in the protocol and the isoflurane used was expired. The lab member was retrained. Facility personnel not qualified to perform their duties (such as through training and instruction) can lead to inappropriate

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animal care and use and potential negative consequences for the animals. The facility shall ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. Corrected for this lab member prior to this inspection.

2.33(b)(3)

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

The review of IACUC records shows that on October 28, 2020 the IACUC met to discuss issues related to inadequate restraint being provided for a non-human primate. The approved protocol provided for the use of ketamine for restraint/sedation for minor experimental/diagnostic procedures (pulse rate, blood pressure, weight etc.). Based on a conversation with the Attending Veterinarian, the inadequate restraint occurred because the animal was no longer adequately responding to the drug. Instances were also identified where lab staff recorded specific values in animal records without performing the corresponding necessary measurements/procedures. The laboratory staff did not notify the facility's veterinary staff of the lack of expected response to the ketamine dose and the resulting lack of appropriate restraint to allow for the minor procedures to be performed. The reports reviewed stated that there were no negative health impacts on the animal. Lack of adequate and timely communication of problems with the veterinary staff can lead to inadequate care of the animals, distress to the animals and health issues. The facility needs to ensure that they establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care in which there is a mechanism of direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. Corrected for the involved laboratory staff prior to this inspection.

3.131(a)

Sanitation.

The enclosures housing tree shrews are dirty and in need of cleaning. Excreta both fresh and up to four weeks old has built up on the perches, shelves, and the floor of the enclosures. In some enclosures the excreta on the floor is growing

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fuzzy white mold. Excreta on the floor was mixed with feed pellets. The feet of multiple tree shrews were contaminated by excreta. This was evidenced by a buildup of brown excreta material in patches on the back wall of the enclosures of tree shrews that were seen jumping from the floor and resting boards to these areas of the wall thereby transferring the material from the boards and floor to the wall.

Excreta buildup in enclosures can lead to soiling of the animals, spread of disease and odors. The facility shall remove excreta from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and reduce odors. Correct by 5/15/23.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the Attending Veterinarian, the IACUC Director and other facility representatives.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
832	64-R-0004	001	UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM	03-MAY-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000011	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	RHESUS MACAQUE
000004	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	PIG-TAILED MACAQUE
000014	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
000018	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000005	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000005	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	CRAB-EATING MACAQUE / CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY
000203	<i>Tupaia belangeri</i>	NORTHERN TREE SHREW
000260	Total	