

Attending Veterinarian and Alternates

Summary/Purpose: Attending Veterinarian's responsibilities and the procedure during the absence of the Attending Veterinarian.

The University of Mississippi Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has made arrangements to have a half-time Attending Veterinarian (AV). All of the Veterinarian's time is devoted to the animal research program. The AV has direct responsibility, as described in the paragraph below, for all University-based activities on the University of Mississippi campus and its satellites involving the care and use of all vertebrate animals used for research and teaching.

Responsibilities of the Attending Veterinarian

This position is responsible for providing veterinary guidance and consultation to animal users on matters concerning preventive medicine, proper use of anesthetics, and analgesics and tranquilizers, perioperative care, euthanasia, diagnostic procedures, and provision of veterinary care, emergency care and use of hazards, occupational health, use of animals, and aspects of animal husbandry. The AV provides guidance on health procedures and choosing appropriate animal models or alternatives to animal models, in addition to providing training to investigators and animal technicians on animal welfare laws. The AV trains personnel on surgical procedures and certifies readiness to perform surgery (See Policy 302.009 on Mandatory Training Components for Research Animal Surgery).

Procedures in the Absence of the Attending Veterinarian

There may be times when the Attending Veterinarian is out of town or unavailable. In these instances, arrangements have been made with two alternate veterinarians familiar with the UM animal care and use program. The Animal Facility Supervisor, IACUC Research Compliance Specialist or other designated personnel will contact the appropriate alternate veterinarian.

1. Contact **the local veterinarian**, who has a contractual agreement to be on call for consultation and emergency care, if the AV is out of town or unavailable and there is an **emergency** (accident, natural disaster, fire) or a PI requests/needs **consultation**.
2. Contact **the UMMC veterinarian**, who has agreed to assist with the review of protocols and significant change amendments via e-mail/fax, if the AV is out of town or unavailable and **protocols** and/or **significant change amendments** need to be reviewed and approved.

Additional information is posted in animal facilities.

References:

(AWAR §2.33a1; §2.33b1; §2.33b5)
(PHS Policy IV.C.1.e; IV.A.3.b.1; *Guide*, p. 14)
(The IACUC Handbook, 2nd ed., Silverman et al., p. 493)