

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD
9001 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099

MINUTES OF MEETING
Friday 30 January 2009
DDH B-108

Members Present:

Scientific Concerns: Todd McBride, Steve Suter, David Germano

Non-Scientific Concerns: Andrew Troup, Stephen Gamboa

Community Issues: Eugene Couture, Debby Kroeger

Safety and Risk Management: David Beadle

Veterinarian: Mylon Filkins

Ex-Officio: Robert Horton

Members Absent: [none]

Visitors:

Erin Tennant for Protocol 09-01

Andrea Staffero, GRASP Administrative Coordinator

Meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Suter at 12:55 PM.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A.** New IACUC member, Steven Gamboa, and new GRASP Administrative Coordinator, Andrea Staffero, were introduced and welcomed.

II. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

McBride moved and Filkins seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for the IACUC meeting of 10 October 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- A.** Renewal of IACUC Protocol 07-01

Gemano summarized. This is a study of lizard diet to infer life-style and is a permitted activity because of endangered species status. Lizards are caught and fecal matter analyzed for insect identification for purposes of comparison with the prevalence of insects present in their environment. Lizards are given small identification responders.

[Q = question A = answer C = comment]

Q: What's with "2009" in reference to capture period? **A:** That's a typo -- should be 2008.

Q: Any mortality during these research activities? **A:** No.

Q: Apparently some lizards like to hang out under cow patties? Thus cattle grazing restrictions could have implications for lizard habitat? **A:** Indeed.

Q: The trip plans were submitted? **A:** Actually no.

Discussion followed on the trip plan requirement and broke out at other times later in the meeting. The major points are all summarized here. A trip plan is notification to somebody that an investigator is going into the field, when he/she expects to be back, and finally notification that he/she has returned -- could be e-mails. The Safety & Risk Director noted that there are serious safety issues associated with individuals traveling alone in remote, potentially hostile environments, and that in the case of students, the faculty research mentor would bear responsibility in case of a melancholy event. As a research supervision activity, this would seem to make the faculty research mentor the natural recipient of the trip plan messages. Germano voiced opposition. Committee members both supported and opposed requiring trip plans in IACUC-authorized field studies. No firm procedure was adopted.

B. Renewal of IACUC Protocol 07-03

[Q = question A = answer C = comment]

Q: What does the response, “60”, mean for “Authorized/actual number of animal subjects”? **A:** There were 60 authorized, but 15 were actually caught. PI did not interpret this question correctly.

C: PI needs to be more informative in providing information about the project for IACUC to make an informed decision about renewal.

Q: What does “none” mean with respect to “Important Findings”? Why should IACUC renew? **A:** Because this is a genetic study, there really are no findings until the genetic analyses are carried out on the tissue samples.

C: To clarify, in Section VII, “Important Findings” is for research protocols, whereas “Educational Benefits” is for education protocols.

Q: If PI has captured only 15 so far, is he going to get a bunch more? **A:** Actually he’s going to collect for a certain period of time and then go with what he’s got.

When there are no more questions, Germano was excused and the IACUC met in executive session. There was a motion to authorize renewal of Protocol 07-01 with a provision to incorporate trip reports and to request for re-submission of Protocol 07-03 [Couture moved, Beadle seconded, 8-0].

Germano was informed of the outcome upon his return.

C. Approval of IACUC Protocol Renewal Form

There was a consensus on several elements related to renewal of IACUC protocols:

1. Students and faculty research mentors should be required to be present when their protocol is considered for renewal.
2. The original protocol should be attached to the renewal application.

3. More detailed instructions should be created for the Protocol Renewal Form.
4. A section addressing safety issues [including trip plans] should be added to the Protocol Renewal Form.

There was a motion to adopt the Protocol Renewal Form, with the above provisions. [Filkins moved, Couture seconded, 9-0]

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review of Proposed Modifications of Active Protocols [none]

B. Review of New Protocols

1. **Protocol 09-01.** "Study of Kangaroo Rat Competition" with Erin Tennant [Biology Student] and David Germano [Faculty Mentor]

The PI summarized. This is an MS thesis with Germano. Erin works for the Department of Fish and Game. The focus of her study is to find out how well Tipton Kangaroo Rats [TKR] survive alone vs. in coexistence with another species, the Heermann's Kangaroo Rat [HKR], a non-endangered species. Research will include trapping, tagging, attaching radio transmitters, and translocating Heermann's kangaroo rats. Baited Sherman live traps are set out at night and checked in the morning. Animals trapped are assessed and released. All the above is conducted under state and federal endangered species permit.

Questions followed.

[Q = question A = answer C = comment]

- Q:** Could the TKR and HKR inter-breed? **A:** Probably not, but genetic analysis could clarify.
- Q:** Are the two species easy to tell apart? **A:** That requires training for what to look for. A field manual is helpful. Erin has the experience to determine species identification.
- Q:** Do the species pretty much stay separated? **A:** They already coexist. There will be fencing used to set up the respective environments.
- Q:** Why aren't the estimated number of animals specified?. **A:** The question was misread. Multiplying number of traps X number of nights they would be set yields 3,456 for 100% success. It will no doubt be less than that.
- Q:** How big is the total area involved? **A:** Something on the order of 10 acres.
- Q:** When species are in competition, which species wins if human intervention takes place? **A:** The endangered species wins if Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are involved.
- Q:** Do the HKR to be translocated breed year round? What happens with nursing females and their litters -- any abandonment? **A:** Yes, they breed year round and abandonment had not been considered. This could happen, but the female would still be moved.

C: That should be added to the protocol as a cost.

Q: How tall is the fencing? Will this have an effect on predators? **A:** Only about 18" above ground -- predators like coyotes and kit foxes will just hurdle it.

Q: What is meant by not having any animals in captivity during translocation? **A:** Well, in fact, they are in captivity while they are being moved, but they are just moved from one place to another the same day.

Q: Can you describe the trap camp set-up? **A:** Two people are there together, set the traps at dusk and check them at daylight.

Q: Do the people have some way to communicate to others? **A:** They will have a Department of Fish and Game cell phone.

When there were no further questions from the IACUC, the PI and faculty mentor were excused and the IACUC deliberated in executive session. There was a motion to authorize Protocol 09-01 providing the investigators submit a statement acknowledging possible adverse effects of animals in the trapped and transported species due to removal of females tending litters. [Couture moved, McBride seconded, 8-0]

C. Renewal of Protocols [none]

V. AREAS OF CONCERN: [none]

VI. NEXT MEETING:

Friday, 24 April 2009 – meeting room to be announced.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM. [Filkins moved, Germano seconded, 9-0]

VIII. ANIMAL FACILITY INSPECTION

There is a record population of residents [$n = 255$]. Sumaya showed four new enrichment cages, including climbing facilities, containing 64 new rats, all females. There are also rats for the Psyc 301 lab assignments, several having electrode implants for Leon's projects, and several for biology coursework. Filkins noted that lighting is uneven in corners of the room and Sumaya explained that rats are rotated among locations to even out light exposure. No incidents have been noted. Events went well at the facility during the several planned power shutdowns, when the electric lanterns provided illumination and a portable generator powered the air conditioning fan. Protocols, authorization letters, and the procedures for reporting concerns were posted. The call-out list was up to date. The logs were current and properly filled out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Suter, Professor of Psychology, Secretary for the IACUC