

San Diego State University

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Principal Investigator Certifications

In meeting its ethical and legal responsibilities for the use of animals in research and education, the San Diego State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must ensure that all such projects or activities are properly carried out, and that animal users assume their responsibilities. The following guiding principles are drawn primarily from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the National Academies, National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

1. I certify that the policies of the IACUC and regulatory agencies will be followed by the Principal Investigator (PI) who is responsible for ensuring that his/her employees and students do the same.
2. I certify the project or activity will be designed and based on knowledge of the disease or phenomenon under study such that the significance of anticipated results will justify animal usage.
3. I certify that I have determined that the research proposed herein is not unnecessarily duplicative of previously reported research.
4. I certify the appropriate yet minimum number of animals to achieve valid results will be used through refinement of experimental design and application of sound statistical methods.
5. I certify that all individuals working on this protocol will participate in the Animal Contact / Exposure Monitoring Program.
6. I certify that all personnel involved in handling of animals will be listed on the protocol and are authorized to work with and conduct procedures (as necessary) involving animals under this proposal. That all personnel will successfully complete the institutionally required training (Animal Health and Welfare Training and Office of Laboratory Animal Care Orientation) prior to working with or handling animals and every three years thereafter. This includes, but not limited to, the biology, handling, and care of this species; aseptic surgical methods and techniques (if necessary); the concept, availability, and use of research or testing methods that limit the use of animals or minimize distress; the proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers (if necessary); and procedures for reporting animal welfare concerns.
7. For all Category of Use D and E proposals: I certify that I have reviewed the pertinent scientific literature and the sources and/or databases and have found no valid alternative to any procedures described herein which may cause more than momentary pain or distress, whether it is relieved or not.
8. I certify that all animals will be procured after approval from the SDSU Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) and contingent upon availability of approved housing.
9. I certify that only authorized personnel directly involved in animal research and instruction will be permitted to enter animal facilities.
10. I certify that animals will not be removed from the vivaria without prior approval by IACUC and OLAC.
11. I certify that I will obtain approval from the IACUC before initiating any significant changes in this study.
12. I certify that I will notify IACUC regarding any unexpected study results that impact the animals. Any unanticipated pain or distress, morbidity or mortality will be reported to the attending vet and IACUC.
13. I certify that all survival surgery will be performed aseptically according to SDSU IACUC Policy and that up-to-date and accessible records of procedures on animals will be maintained as required by policy and regulation
14. I certify that when it is necessary to terminate an animal subject, an approved method of euthanasia will be employed. No animal will be discarded until its death is certain. Dead animals will be disposed of properly and in accordance with OLAC procedures.
15. I certify the project or activity will be designed and conducted to avoid all unnecessary discomfort and injury to subject animals.

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16. I certify that if any aspect of the project or activity is likely to cause greater discomfort than the induction of tranquilization or anesthetization, the subject animals WILL be rendered incapable of perceiving pain prior to its possible onset and will be maintained in that condition until the threat of pain is ended; i.e., the pain and distress will be relieved by the appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, and/or tranquilizing drugs throughout the experiment, including post-operative and post-procedural care.
17. I certify that the scientist in charge will be prepared to terminate the project or activity whenever it is determined by the scientist, the IACUC or its designate(s) that continuation may result in unnecessary pain or distress to the subject animals.
18. I certify anesthetized animals will be monitored at all times.
19. I certify experiments will not be visible from hallways.
20. As principal investigator, I assume responsibility for ensuring that all personnel covered under this APF will be notified of the need for health and safety training appropriate to this project. I will provide the necessary oversight of procedures that are potentially hazardous to human safety and public health.
21. I certify that any tested biological, animal or human materials to be used in animals have not been passed through rodent species outside of the animal facility in question and/or the material is derived from the original tested sample. To the best of my knowledge the material remains uncontaminated with rodent pathogens.
22. I certify that I am familiar with and will comply with all pertinent institutional, state, and federal rules and policies.