AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Excellent science conducted safely and with compassion.

Location: Conservation and Production Research Laboratory, Bushland Texas **Date:** 12/09/2020

This location's IACUC of record was reviewed on this date and confirmed to be fulfilling all regulatory responsibilities, as defined below. A checked box indicates the committee's compliance.

☑ **IACUC Membership complies with 9 CFR 2.31(a)(b) and 2.33(a)(3).**

The committee has at least 3 members appointed by the highest ranking location official, including (1) a nonaffiliated member representing the general public's interests; (2) a veterinarian; and (3) a Chair.

☑ **The IACUC conducts animal program reviews and facility inspections at least once every 6 months in accordance with 9 CFR 2.31(c)(1-3).**

The review is conducted by at least 2 IACUC members, and documented as a report that (1) includes minority views; (2) identifies departures from regulations or standards, with reasons for departures; (3) distinguishes significant from minor deficiencies; (4) provides reasonable and specific plans/dates/schedules for corrections of deficiencies; (5) has been reviewed and signed by a majority of IACUC members; and (6) is submitted to the Institutional Official.

☑ **The IACUC reviews proposed research activities involving animals in accordance with 9 CFR 2.31(c), 2.31(d)(1-5), and 2.31(e).**

- *Every member is provided with a complete list of activities under review in advance.*
- *Any member can request for a specific proposal to be reviewed by the full committee.*
- *Approval is required before research can be initiated, and must be re-reviewed at least annually as long as the research is in progress.*
- *Members with potential conflicts are recused and do not vote during the review and approval process.*

☑ **Approved protocols include assurances and/or statements, as required by 9 CFR 2.31(d)(1) and 2.31(e).**

- *Proposed procedures do not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments.*
- *A sound rationale for the use of live animals, and for the species and number of animals requested has been provided.*
- *A complete description of how animals will be used in experiments is provided.*
- *Pain and distress are avoided or minimized, and procedures used to minimize pain and discomfort are completely described.*
- *Methods of euthanasia are described and consistent with the AVMA Guidelines.*
- *Proposed animal activities with the potential to cause pain/distress include: (1) the Attending Veterinarian's input relative to pain management; (2) a description of drugs or methods used to mitigate anticipated pain/distress; and (3) results of a search for alternatives to painful procedures that includes information sources consulted and search methods, terms, etc. used. Paralytic agents cannot be used without anesthesia.*
- *Painful procedures that cannot be alleviated must be scientifically justified, and continued only for the minimum time necessary.*
- *Survival surgeries are conducted aseptically and in dedicated facilities.*
- *Pre- and post-operative care is fully described.*
- *No animal is used in multiple major survival surgeries, unless: (1) written scientific justification has been provided; (2) the added surgeries are required veterinary procedures or needed to protect the animal's health; or (3) other special circumstances apply and have been approved by the APHIS Administrator.*

☑ **The IACUC reviews significant changes to approved protocols in accordance with 9 CFR 2.31(c)(7), 2.31(d)(8), and 2.31(e).**

☑ **If the need arises, the IACUC is authorized to suspend research by a majority vote in accordance with 9 CFR 2.31(c)(8), 2.31(d)(6), 2.32(d)(7).**

☑ **The IACUC has procedures to review and investigate animal care concerns from the public or facility personnel in accordance with 9 CFR 2.31(c)(4).**

☑ **The IACUC adheres to minimum recordkeeping requirements, as specified in 9 CFR 2.35.**

- *Minutes of IACUC meetings are prepared, and include a record of members in attendance.*
- *Records of approved activities and/or significant changes to approved activities involving animals are kept.*
- *Semi-annual program review and facility inspection reports, with recommendations and minority viewpoints, are prepared and maintained.*
- *Program records are maintained for a minimum of 3 years, and records pertaining to animal usage activities are maintained for a minimum of 3 years after the activity has concluded.*
- *When needed, use of an externally administered IACUC is clearly documented in a written agreement.*

☑ **There is an Attending Veterinarian (AV), who ensures that an adequate program of veterinary care has been established in accordance with 9 CFR 2.33.**

- *The AV has direct or delegated authority to oversee all aspects of animal care and use, and there are provisions for backup care when needed.*
- *There is a written Program of Veterinary Care that includes regularly scheduled visits when veterinary care is provided by a part-time consultant.*
- *Animals are observed daily, unless less frequent observation is specifically approved by the IACUC.*
- *Direct and frequent communication takes place between investigators and animal care staff with the AV, or appropriate delegate, to ensure accurate information on animal health, behavior, and well-being is provided in a timely manner.*
- *The AV has appropriate training in the species maintained at the facility.*
- *The AV maintains regular communication with the IACUC, and provides guidance to investigators and other personnel regarding husbandry, handling, immobilization, sedation, analgesia, anesthesia, and euthanasia.*
- *The AV provides oversight for surgery and peri-operative care of animals that is consistent with current veterinary medical and nursing procedures.*
- *The AV provides oversight of the assessment, treatment plan, and medical recordkeeping requirements for animals requiring veterinary care.*

☑ **All personnel involved in animal activities are adequately trained and qualified to perform their respective duties in accordance with 9 CFR 2.32.**

At minimum, training must be provided in: (1) humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation; (2) the concept, availability, and use of research or testing methods that minimize pain/distress or limit the use of animals (the three R's); (3) proper administration of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers by those responsible for their use; (4) procedures for reporting deficiencies in animal care; and (5) utilization of services available to provide information on alternatives.

☑ **Animals are not abused and are handled in a manner that is expeditious and careful not to cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort, as specified in 9 CFR 2.38(f).**