08/22/19

Dear Animal Research PIs, PI Associates and Contact Persons,

I am very pleased to announce that in an effort to reduce regulatory burden for PIs, Contact Persons and the Committee, the ACUC has recently voted unanimously to *not require* the submission and review of certain first and second annual protocols beginning October 2019. However, there are several caveats to this, please see the details below.

**Back to Basics:** As you may know there are two laws that govern the work that the ACUC is required to do to ensure the appropriate care of animals involved in research, testing and education, which includes the review of protocols. Here is their expected frequency of protocol reviews:

1. Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (1966) – USDA requires that animal use protocols with USDA regulated species be reviewed annually.
2. Heath Research Extension Act (1985) – PHS Policy requires that animal use protocols be reviewed every three years.

Until now, UVA has been very cautious and required review of all protocols annually. **So, what does this change mean for your animal use protocol(s)?**

Starting in October, 2019, the ACUC will **ONLY** require the review of all Third Year Protocols, all Modifications and first and second annual protocols that are funded by the Department of Defense (DoD), Veteran’s Affairs (VA), or that have USDA regulated species. The use of birds, mice of the genus Mus and rats of the genus Rattus on a protocol are exempt from annual reviews as long as they do not have DoD or VA funding.

**What is a USDA Regulated Species?** According to the AWA, these are warm blooded animals used or intended for use in research, testing, or education **except for** birds, mice of the genus Mus and rats of the genus Rattus. Examples of USDA regulated species are: rabbit, dog, guinea pig, swine, ferret, hamster, vole, gerbil, woodchuck, tree shrew, giant southern pouched rats, cotton and rice rats and deer mice (not standard laboratory rodents).

**Which Protocols Need Review and When?**

* **All Protocols Require Third Year Submission and Review** regardless of species or funding.
* Protocols that are funded by the DoD, VA or use USDA Regulated Species **STILL** require first and second annual submission and review.
* Protocols that are funded by the NIH, UVA departmental or industry and describe the use of laboratory rodents; rats of the genus Rattus, mice of genus Mus, birds, frogs and fish species **NO LONGER** require first and second annual submission and review.
* **All protocol modifications (“minor” or “major”) will continue to require review as usual, regardless of species or funding.**
* If your animal use protocol contains BOTH USDA and non-USDA regulated species, or is funded by BOTH NIH and DoD or VA, the protocol will require annual review. In the future, you may want to separate the species by creating separate protocols (USDA regulated in one, and non-USDA regulated in another) or (NIH funding in one and DoD or VA funding in another).

**Other FAQs:**

Literature searches for alternatives to Pain and Distress (for USDA Categories D and E only) will be required for Third Year reviews, required first and second annual reviews, and modifications.

The ACUC will continue to generate automated email review reminders for the required Third Year Reviews and those that require annual reviews (USDA regulated species and DoD or VA funding). They will no longer be sent for annual reviews that are not required.

Modifications can continue to be submitted to the ACUC by the deadline each month.

Thank you and please direct any further questions about this change to the ACUC Office: acuc@virginia.edu

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