



University of Maryland College Park Animal Care and Use Standard

Post-approval Monitoring (PAM)

Purpose: This standard describes the animal care and use post-approval monitoring program.

Background: Federal laws, regulations and policies require continuing IACUC oversight of animal activities. The University of Maryland IACUC uses a variety of mechanisms to facilitate ongoing protocol assessment and regulatory compliance. Monitoring and assessment can help ensure animal well-being and may provide opportunities to refine research procedures. Continuing oversight involves an educational partnership between IACUC, compliance, animal care and research personnel to ensure animal welfare and quality research.

Definition: Post-approval monitoring (PAM) is the continuing assessment of the animal care and use program and of animal use activities following IACUC approval. It consists of all types of protocol and program monitoring methods employed for these purposes.

Standards: Post-approval monitoring is an integral component of animal care and use oversight at the University of Maryland. The PAM program helps support a culture of care focusing on animal well-being that results in quality research in accordance with the approved protocol and acceptable animal care and use standards.

Methodology: Post-approval monitoring is intended to be an interactive, educational process. The IACUC uses a variety of PAM methods to assess animal well-being, animal care and animal use protocols to ensure conformity with animal care and use requirements and stated experimental goals and procedures as approved by the IACUC. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Continuing protocol review (annual reviews and triennial renewals)
- Regular review of adverse events or unanticipated experimental outcomes
- Semiannual facility inspection and program reviews
- Daily observations by animal care staff
- Laboratory visits (announced and/or unannounced)
- Review of protocol-related health or safety issues
- Animal care and use and protocol records review
- IACUC or veterinary observation of selected specialized or high-risk procedures
- PAM/compliance staff visits to observe animal use areas and procedures
- External regulatory inspections (e.g., USDA) and assessments (e.g., AAALAC)

PAM observations will be presented no less than quarterly at a convened IACUC meeting.