January 7, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans and Department Chairs

FROM: Patrick G. O'Shea 
Vice President and Chief Research Officer

SUBJECT: Communicating Animal Care and Use Concerns

This memorandum reaffirms the University’s commitment to maintain full and open communications regarding animal care and use in the University of Maryland research and educational programs. It is of the utmost importance to maintain programs that are of the highest quality, and in compliance with Federal laws, regulations and policies.

Concerns or questions related to animal care programs at the University should be directed to the Office of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) by email at IACUC@umd.edu or 301-405-4212, or the University Attending Veterinarian at 301-405-4920.

Every effort shall be made to ensure the confidentiality of any person reporting concerns involving the care and use of animals.

As appropriate, an investigation team will perform a thorough assessment of the concern. Federal and state law prohibits the discrimination against persons that bring forth concerns for investigation. The University will not tolerate any reprisal against an individual who raises concerns involving the care and use of animals. Information on NIH’s reporting guidance is found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-05-034.html.

Examples of situations that must be reported to the IACUC include the following:

- conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals;
- chronic failure to provide food, water or space for animals;
- conduct of animal-related activities without appropriate IACUC review and approval, or beyond the date of IACUC protocol expiration;
- participation in animal-related activities by individuals who are not appropriately qualified or trained; and
- failure to monitor animals post-procedurally to ensure well-being.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. Anyone who has concerns related to the care and use of animals in research or teaching at the University should voice those concerns. If you are uncertain about whether an incident or activity should be reported, please report it. No faculty, administrator, staff, student or other member of the campus community may be subject to interference, coercion or reprisal for making a report in good faith.

Please direct questions or comments regarding the intent or contents of this memorandum to me at poshea@umd.edu. Additional information on reporting animal concerns is also available at http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IACUC/reporting_non_compliance.html

cc: UM Attending Veterinarian
    Facility Veterinarians
    IACUC Chair
    Animal Facility Managers
    IACUC Members
    UMCP Principal Investigators
    Posted: Animal Laboratories & Facilities