**Inspection FAQs**

**Q. Why does the IACUC inspect my lab?**
A. The IACUC is charged with ongoing review and oversight of the animal care and use program. One of the IACUC’s responsibilities is to conduct semiannual facility inspections and program reviews.

**Q. Where does the requirement for inspections originate?**
A. The Animal Welfare Regulations, the PHS Policy and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* all address periodic inspections of animal facilities and animal use areas.

**Q. How often does the IACUC perform inspections?**
A. The IACUC performs facility inspections at least once every 6 months.

**Q. What facilities does the IACUC inspect?**
A. The IACUC inspects animal facilities, study areas and satellite areas.

**Q. What is an “Animal Facility”?**
A. *Animal Facilities* include any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for animal confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments inclusive of surgical manipulation.

**Q. What is a “Study Area”?**
A. *Study Area* means any building, room, area, enclosure, or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 12 hours.

**Q. What is a “Satellite Area”?**
A. *Satellite Areas* include any containment areas outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 24 hours.

**Q. What are the benefits of these IACUC inspections and program reviews?**
A.
- Enhance communication between the research team, animal care staff and the IACUC
- Identify good performance
- Educate through constructive interactions between animal care, research and IACUC team members
- Prepare for other, outside visits from oversight bodies (e.g., USDA, AAALAC, OLAW)
- Ensure ongoing humane care and use and programmatic compliance

**Q. Who is involved in the IACUC semiannual facility inspection and program review?**
A. All IACUC members are invited to participate in the inspection. There must be at least two committee members, and the IACUC may invite ad hoc consultants to assist with the inspection.
Q. Could these inspections be unannounced, or will we always know when to expect the IACUC?
A. Yes; the IACUC semiannual inspection can be unannounced or announced. The UMD IACUC generally makes announced visits, and plans their schedule to meet your availability.

Q. What does the IACUC look at during their semiannual facility inspections?
A. The IACUC may look at any aspect of the facilities and animal use areas that affects the animals and their well-being and use or impacts personnel safety. This includes (but is not limited to):
- Personnel training records
- Laboratory notebooks
- Controlled substances records
- Animal medical records
- Facility sanitation and repair
- Room log sheets and other records (sanitation, temperature, humidity, etc.)
- Animal housing
- Animal condition
- Feed, water, and bedding
- Cage washing and storage
- Surgery and surgical support (including waste gas management, gas cylinder storage, etc.)
- Procedure areas and laboratories
- Storage and mechanical areas
- PPE requirements and door signs
- Hazard use and protective equipment (fume hoods, BSCs, bedding dump stations, etc.)
- Waste management
- Pest control
- Equipment function and maintenance
- Other animal care, research and maintenance practices and aspects of the facilities

Q. Why is the IACUC looking at things like Occ Health and Safety when they come to my lab?
A. The occupational health and safety program (OHSP) is an essential part of the overall Program of animal care and use. An effective OHSP requires coordination between the research, the animal care and use Program, the environmental health and safety program, occupational health services, and the administration. Although not directly responsible for managing the OHSP, the IACUC plays a role in overseeing all aspects of the Program of animal care and use, including OHSP. The IACUC may assess component of the OHSP during the inspection, including:
- Hazard analysis and risk assessment
- Exposure control and prevention strategies
- Facilities, equipment and monitoring
- Personnel training
- Personal hygiene
- Animal experimentation involving hazards
- Personal protection
Q. Why did the IACUC point this (fume hood, eye wash, exposed wires, etc.,) out when DES didn’t see or mention it?

A. The occupational health and safety program (OHSP) involves coordination between many different entities of the University. There may be some overlap between what is inspected or assessed during the lab visits or inspections. Multiple opportunities for observation help ensure that all aspects of the OHSP, including equipment maintenance and monitoring, are up to date.