



## **Florida State University Animal Care and Use Committee**

### **Veterinary Partner Program**

Continuing IACUC oversight of animal activities is required by Federal laws, regulations, and policies. To achieve compliance, currently Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) personnel and/or research staff observe all animals daily for illness, trauma, and abnormal behavior. Abnormal findings are reported to LAR veterinarians for follow-up evaluation and care. The LAR Assistant Director and Program Manager perform twice weekly rounds in LAR facilities. The LAR Clinical Veterinarian performs weekly facility rounds. Grand rounds, including the Attending Veterinarian/LAR Director, Assistant Director, Clinical Veterinarian, and Program Manager are conducted weekly, rotating between LAR and satellite facilities.

To enhance communication between LAR veterinarians and individual research teams and to collaboratively and collegially ensure that animal activities align with approved animal use protocols, a new partnership program is proposed. A Veterinary Partner will be assigned to each research group. The Veterinary Partner would have primary responsibility for addressing research group concerns regarding protocol modifications, technical/training needs, and adverse events and may perform live animal observations. Assignment of a Veterinary Partner will not preclude research personnel from contacting another LAR veterinarian with questions or concerns.

The Florida State University Animal Care and Use Committee will use a risk-based approach to determine frequency of live animal observations. Live animal procedures will be observed on the following schedule by either the Veterinary Partner or responsible Principal Investigator, with the observer at the discretion of the responsible Principal Investigator.

Once annually for protocols:

- Classified as pain/distress category E
- With previous non-compliance incidents
- Involving multiple major survival surgery
- Involving USDA covered species  
and/or
- Designated by the ACUC for live animal observation

For protocols evaluated annually, research groups with no non-compliant items identified on the current year's live animal observation will be exempted from the following year's live animal observation.

The Veterinary Partner or responsible Principal Investigator will observe live animal procedures once during the three-year life of the protocol for protocols involving major survival surgery. In the event non-compliant items are identified during the triennial observation, protocols involving major survival surgery must undergo annual live animal observations performed either by the Veterinary Partner or responsible Principal Investigator.

A checklist for observation of live animal procedures is included as an attachment to this document. Following observations, the Veterinary Partner or responsible Principal Investigator will submit the completed checklist to the Animal Care and Use Committee. Following Veterinary Partner visits, research groups will receive a written summary of observations and be provided an opportunity to submit protocol modifications to address minor protocol discrepancies. The Animal Care and Use Committee will receive a monthly summary of Veterinary Partner visits. Additionally, the ACUC chair and Institutional Official will receive immediate notification of observations that require urgent action to prevent compromise of animal welfare.

ACUC approved: November 20, 2019



**Florida State University  
Animal Care and Use Committee**

**Live Animal Procedure Observation Checklist**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROTOCOL NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OBSERVER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURE(S) OBSERVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKLIST:**

**PROTOCOL AND PERSONNEL**

Is the protocol readily available to all personnel?	Y	N	NA
Are all personnel familiar with the protocol?	Y	N	NA
Are all personnel performing procedures listed on the protocol?	Y	N	NA
Have all personnel completed ACUC required training?	Y	N	NA
Is the study area listed on the protocol?	Y	N	NA
If amendments were submitted, are they being followed?	Y	N	NA

### STUDY PROCEDURES

Are procedures performed as described in protocol?	Y	N	NA
Is appropriate PPE worn/used?	Y	N	NA
Are personnel aware of procedure/study endpoints?	Y	N	NA
Did any animals die or experience unexpected events?	Y	N	NA

### ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA

Are the anesthetic methods used described in protocol?	Y	N	NA
Are animals monitored (during and after surgery) as described in protocol?	Y	N	NA
Are animals maintained at an appropriate depth of anesthesia for the procedure performed?	Y	N	NA
Are inhalant anesthetics scavenged properly?	Y	N	NA
Is analgesia administered as described in protocol?	Y	N	NA
Are all pharmaceuticals used in-date?	Y	N	NA

### SURGERY

Is there a clean, uncluttered dedicated area for surgery?	Y	N	NA
Is surgeon proficient to perform procedure?	Y	N	NA
Is surgical attire appropriate for the procedure/species?	Y	N	NA
Is proper aseptic technique used?	Y	N	NA
Are all medical materials used in-date?	Y	N	NA
Is an appropriate area for provided for recovery?	Y	N	NA
Is post-op monitoring adequate and as described in protocol?	Y	N	NA
Are adequate post-operative/procedural records maintained?	Y	N	NA

