

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE
Policy #2
VETERINARY CARE

In concurrence with
TTUHSC El Paso Assurance #D19-01056
and Federal Regulations and Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the role and responsibilities of the Institutional Veterinarian.

General

The Institutional Veterinarian (IVet), employed at TTUHSC El Paso, is responsible for laboratory animal care and veterinary care of animals at the TTUHSC El Paso Laboratory Animal Resource Center (LARC) and all satellite facilities. The IVet reports to the TTUHSC El Paso Institutional Official.

Qualifications of the IVet

The IVet is also the TTUHSC El Paso Attending Veterinarian and must meet the minimum requirements as defined by the USDA. These requirements include:

1. being a graduate of a veterinary school accredited by the AVMA or foreign equivalent
2. having appropriate training and/or experience in the care and management of the species being tended
3. maintaining a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the US.

Duties of the IVet.

1. The IVet has overall responsibility for emergency health matters at all the TTUHSC El Paso animal resource center and all satellite facilities. The IVet may assign or direct a Clinical Veterinarian, a veterinary technician or designee to triage emergency health or other clinical situations.
2. The IVet may suspend animal use and, if necessary, quarantine animals, when deemed in the best interest of the animal(s). If suspension or quarantine occurs, the IVet shall notify the Principal Investigator (PI) immediately. The IVet will also notify the PI and IACUC Chair, in writing, within 3 business days.
3. The IVet will oversee the LARC staff and oversee its day-to-day functions.
4. The IVet will provide veterinary oversight and may assist on all approved research and training projects and may assign appropriate LARC personnel to assist in procedures for any current protocol.

Although the IACUC will provide general oversight to ensure that all personnel are properly trained, the IVet will provide specific training and ensure that personnel have been trained appropriately in the relevant procedures and for the pertinent species.

Records of staff qualifications, training and experience with each species will be kept by the Office of Research Resources. These records will be made available for annual IACUC review and assurance that personnel are adequately trained.

The IVet and LARC personnel supervised by the IVet have TTUHSC El Paso IACUC approval to work on all IACUC-approved protocols without being individually named on the protocol. This allows the IVet and LARC staff to freely assist any investigator with animal procedures in the approved protocol. However, this does not allow the IVet and LARC staff to change any animal procedure without IACUC approval.

5. The IVet will provide “on-call” animal health support on an ongoing basis including weekends, holidays and after regular business hours or will arrange back-up veterinary care in the absence of the IVet.
6. The IVet will participate as a voting member of the TTUHSC El Paso IACUC.
7. The IVet will review all protocols and those amendments that affect personnel or animal welfare that are submitted to the IACUC. The IVet will work with the IACUC member assigned as reviewer to effect revisions as necessary.
8. The IVet will supervise Clinical Veterinarians (backup Veterinarian) at the TTUHSC El Paso LARC and all satellites facilities.

Related Policies

Investigators must comply with all other institutional policies at TTUHSC El Paso and Federal Guidelines. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Policy #20 Administrative Approvals of Amendments