

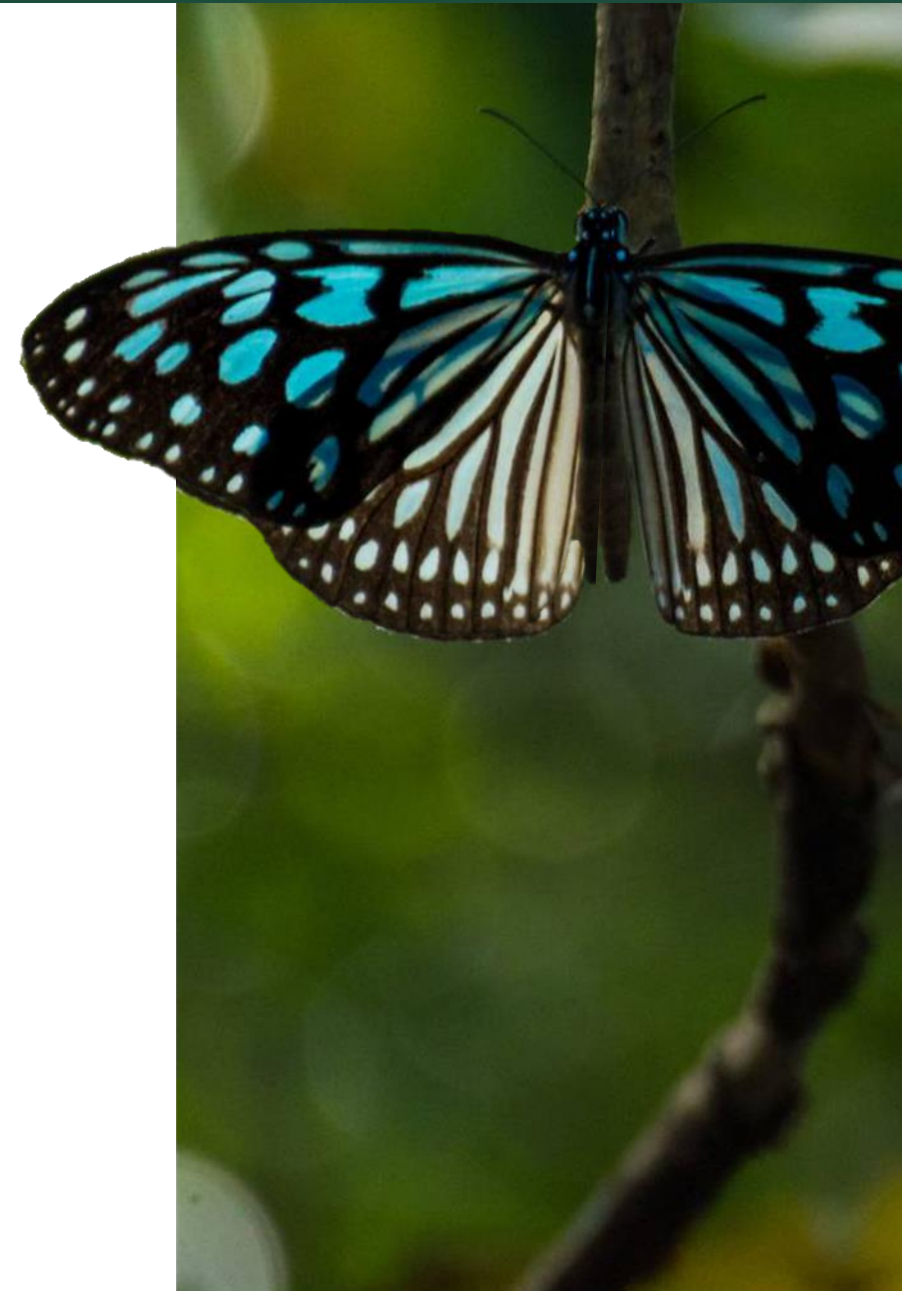


UNDERSTANDING THE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

NEW INSPECTOR VIRTUAL TRAINING
ANIMAL WELFARE OPERATIONS

Research Facilities, Part 1

6/17/2026



UNDERSTANDING THE RES ENVIRO

NEW INSPECTOR
ANIMAL WELFARE OPERATIONS

Research Facilities, Part 1



USDA Certificate Type

License

- A. Breeder
- B. Dealer
- C. Exhibitor

Registration

- R. Research
- F. Federal research facility
- G. Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- V. Veterans Affairs
- T. Transporter
- H. Intermediate Handler



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal Care



Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations

§ 2146 - Administration and enforcement by Secretary

(A) Investigations and inspections

The Secretary shall inspect each research facility **at least once each year** and, in the case of deficiencies or deviations from the standards promulgated under this chapter, shall conduct such follow-up inspections as may be necessary until all deficiencies or deviations from such standards are corrected.

Compared to inspections at licensed facilities

Similar...

- AWA Regulations and Standards
- Inspect with facility representative(s)
- Inspect:
 - Animals
 - Housing facilities
 - Support areas
 - Food and food prep areas
- Animal and program records

Extra...

Additional animal use areas
Research protocols
Research oversight records
Ongoing research affects animals

US guiding ethical principles

Published in the *Federal Register* May 20, 1985

- Use AWA to guide animal care and use
- Promote societal good through research activities
- Minimize animal numbers used
- Consider using animal alternatives
- Avoid / minimize pain and distress
- Provide appropriate living conditions
- Use qualified / experienced personnel



Principles of Humane Experimental Technique

Russel & Burch (1959)

- **Replacement**

Emphasis on methods that avoid the use of animals

- **Reduction**

Minimize the numbers of animals used per study

- **Refinement**

Use of methods that minimize pain, suffering, distress, or lasting harm
AND improve welfare for the animals

A large, stylized, light blue 3D graphic of the letters '3Rs' with a drop shadow, positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide.

IACUC? *"IA-Cook" "IA-Kook" "IA-Coke"*

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- A facility's internal animal welfare oversight body
- Required at all covered research facilities
- Functions:
 - Monitors the institution's animal care and use programs
 - Approves animal use activities
 - Investigates animal welfare concerns

Researcher

Principal Investigator (PI)
Study Director (SD)





Administrative assistant

- The gatekeeper
 - Point of contact
 - Facility/animal-use area access
 - Medical testing, *if required*
- Arrange for workspace
- Contact facility representative
- Retrieve requested records
- Acquire clothing if change out required



Facility Representatives



Likely to be present during facility inspection:

- **Attending veterinarian**
 - Animal health and welfare oversight
 - Will typically want to be involved in the inspection, especially the exit interview discussion
- **Operations manager**
 - Facility manager, Colony manager
 - Oversight of day-to-day husbandry and care



Leadership

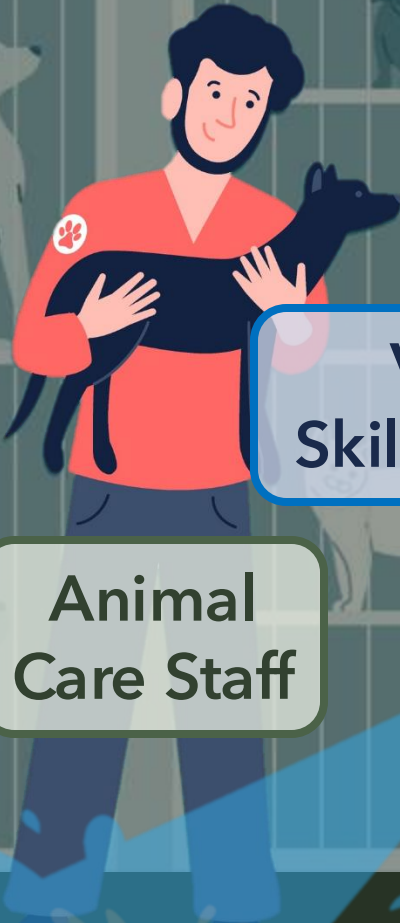


- **IACUC Chair**
 - Often serves as a facility representative during a USDA inspection
- **Institutional Official**
 - Ultimate authority for facility
 - May participate in exit interview

Other key staff



Research
Technician



Animal
Care Staff



Veterinary/
Skilled Technician

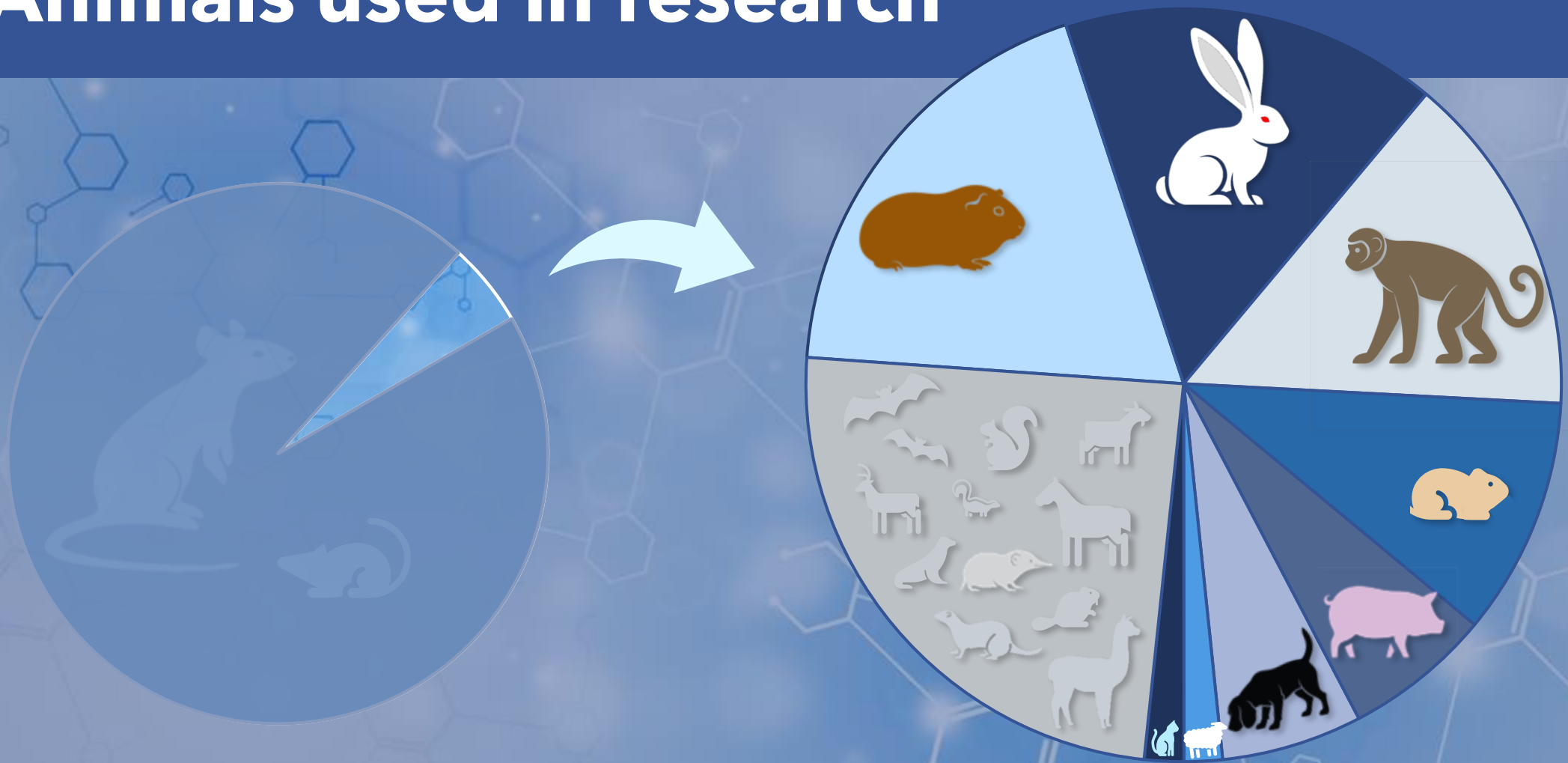


Husbandry/
Sanitation Staff



Animal
Behaviorist

Animals used in research



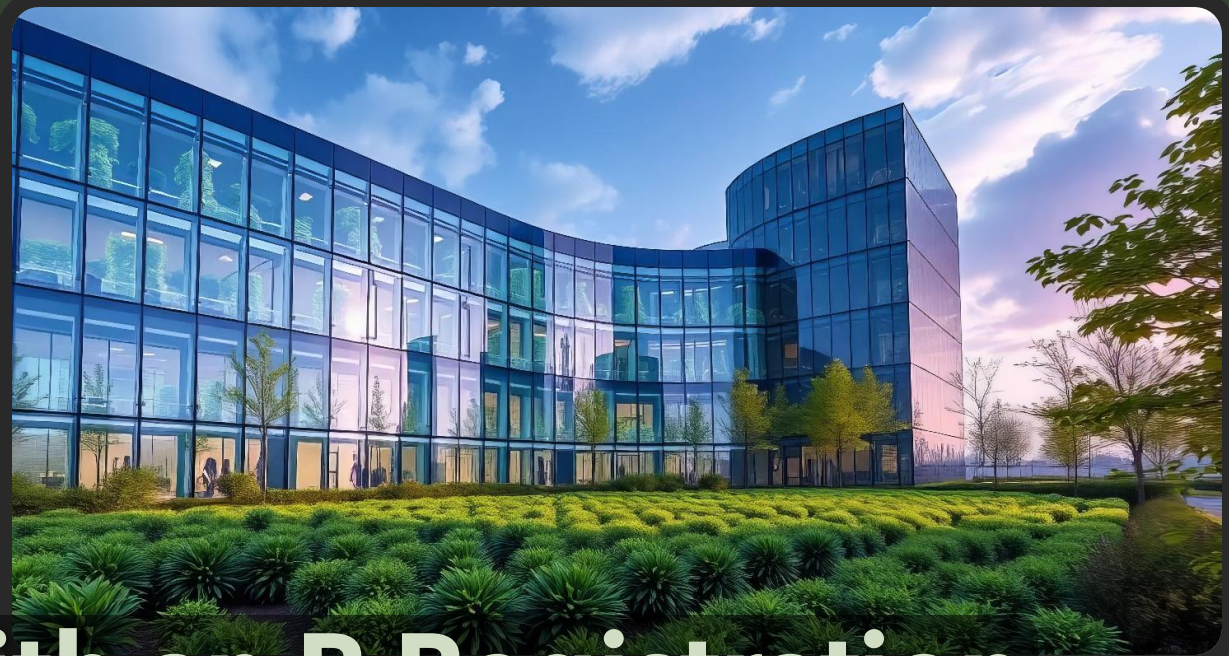


Animal housing

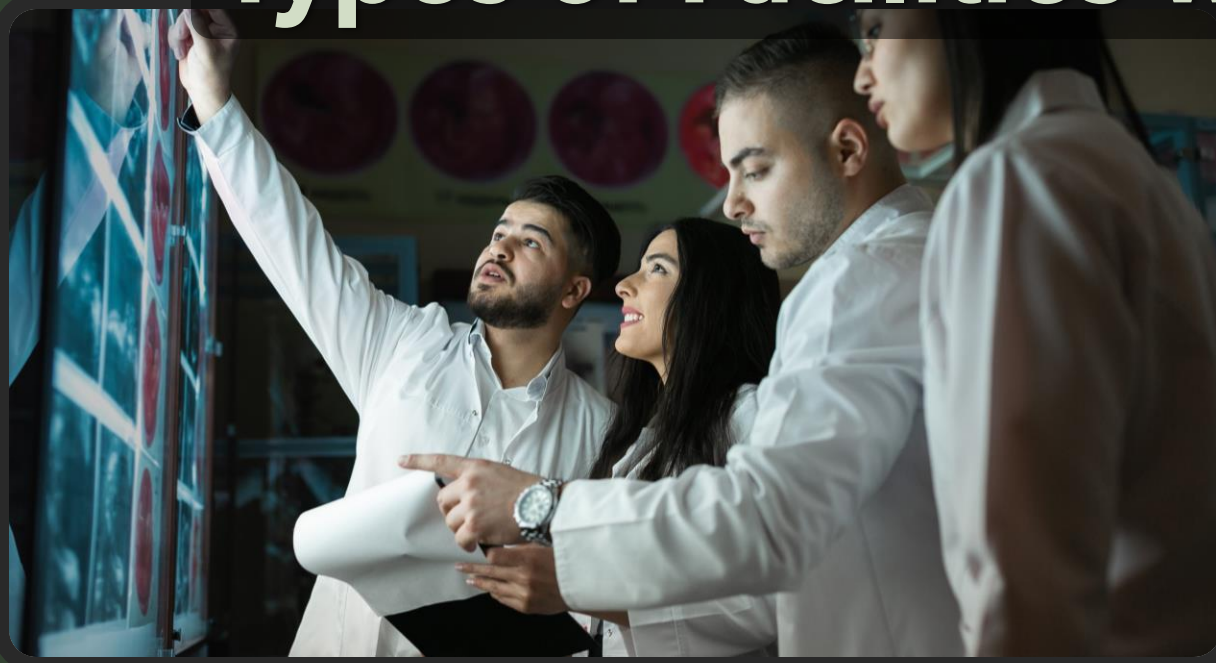


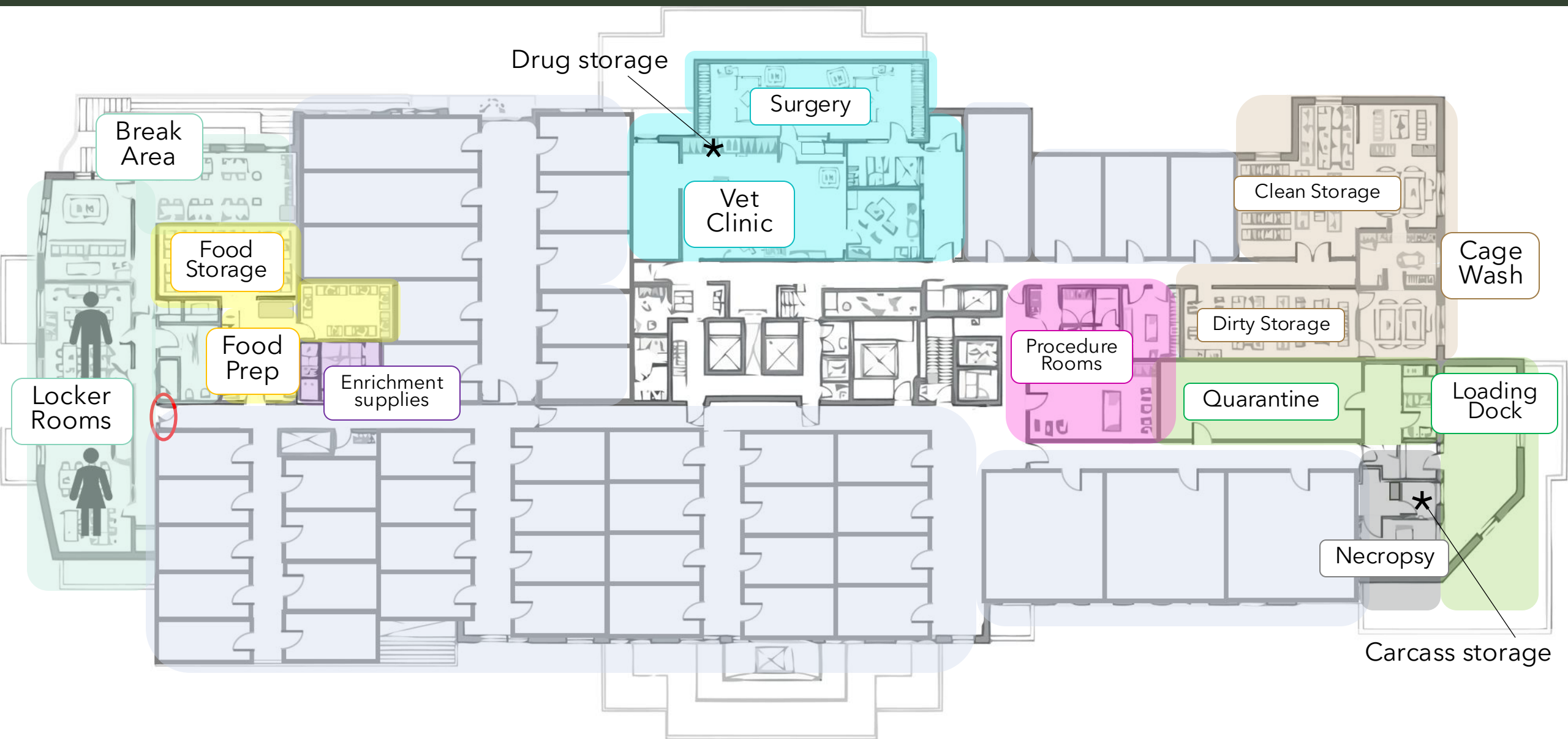
Prioritized features:

- Controlled environment
- Sanitation
- Access to animals
- Optimized use of facility space



Types of Facilities with an R Registration





How Research is Done



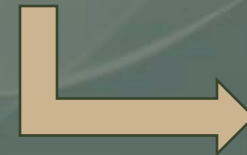
Researcher



Veterinarian



↑
"proposed
animal use
activities"



Institutional
Official

COMMONLY USED IACUC TERMS

Protocol- written proposal of the activities related to the care and use of animals on a research study

May also be called the “Animal Use Proposal” or AUP

Quorum- majority of the Committee members

the minimum number of members that must be present to make the proceedings of a meeting valid

Recusal- to remove (oneself) from participation to avoid a conflict of interest

Affected IACUC members are able to participate in the discussion but not allowed to vote on matters where there is conflict of interest . Recused IACUC members do not count toward the quorum for the issues they are not able to vote on.

ADDITIONAL COMMON TERMS

Designated Member Review (DMR)- a formalized process that allows for as few as one IACUC member to review and approve an animal activity- *PROVIDED* that the entire committee has access to a description of the proposed activities and has not requested a full committee review

MOP- major operative procedure, *often used interchangeably with "major survival surgery"*

Defined in the regs as "any surgical intervention that penetrates and exposes a body cavity or any procedure which produces permanent impairment of physical or physiological functions"

MMOP- multiple major operative procedures

ADDITIONAL COMMON TERMS

Bred for use in research - an animal that is bred in captivity and used for research, teaching, testing, or experimentation purposes.

Study area - 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.

ADDITIONAL COMMON TERMS

SOP- standard operating procedure; a step-by-step outline describing how specific tasks are performed

GLP- good laboratory practices; a set of internationally recognized principles designed to guarantee the quality and integrity of non-clinical safety studies

Humane endpoints- the point at which pain or distress in an experimental animal is prevented, terminated, or relieved

Does not necessarily mean a point at which the animal will be euthanized. May alternatively indicate a point where an animal may be removed from a study protocol or where study procedures are paused.

How Research is Done



Activity:

Who is responsible?

Choose one of the following for each situation:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff



Activity: Who is responsible?

Supports a culture of respect for animals and maintains a commitment to following the Animal Welfare Act

Choose one of the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Supports a culture of respect for animals and maintains a commitment to following the Animal Welfare Act

The Institution (i.e., everyone)



Activity: Who is responsible?

Ensures adequate veterinary care and oversees animal care and use

Choose one of the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Ensures adequate veterinary care and oversees animal care and use

The Veterinary Staff



Activity: Who is responsible?

Has day to day responsibility for assessment of animal well being, regardless of experimental use

Choose one of the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Has day to day responsibility for assessment of animal well being, regardless of experimental use

The Husbandry Staff



Activity: Who is responsible?

Develops the scientific concepts that underlie an animal protocol

Choose one of the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Develops the scientific concepts that underlie an animal protocol



The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Internally ensures that procedures are carried out in accordance with the IACUC approved protocol and compliant with AWA

Choose one of the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Internally ensures that procedures are carried out in accordance with the approved protocol and are compliant with AWA

The IACUC



Activity: Who is responsible?

Legally commits on behalf of the facility that the requirements of the AWA will be met

Choose one of the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Legally commits on behalf of the facility that the requirements of the AWA will be met

The IO



Activity: Who is responsible?

Develops an animal use protocol
which balances animal welfare and
experimental goals
(more than one correct answer)

Choose from the following:

The Institution (i.e., everyone)

The Veterinary Staff

The Husbandry Staff

The IO

The IACUC

The PI and Research Staff

Activity: Who is responsible?

Develops an animal use protocol
which balances animal welfare and
experimental goals
(more than one correct answer)

The Veterinary Staff
The Husbandry Staff

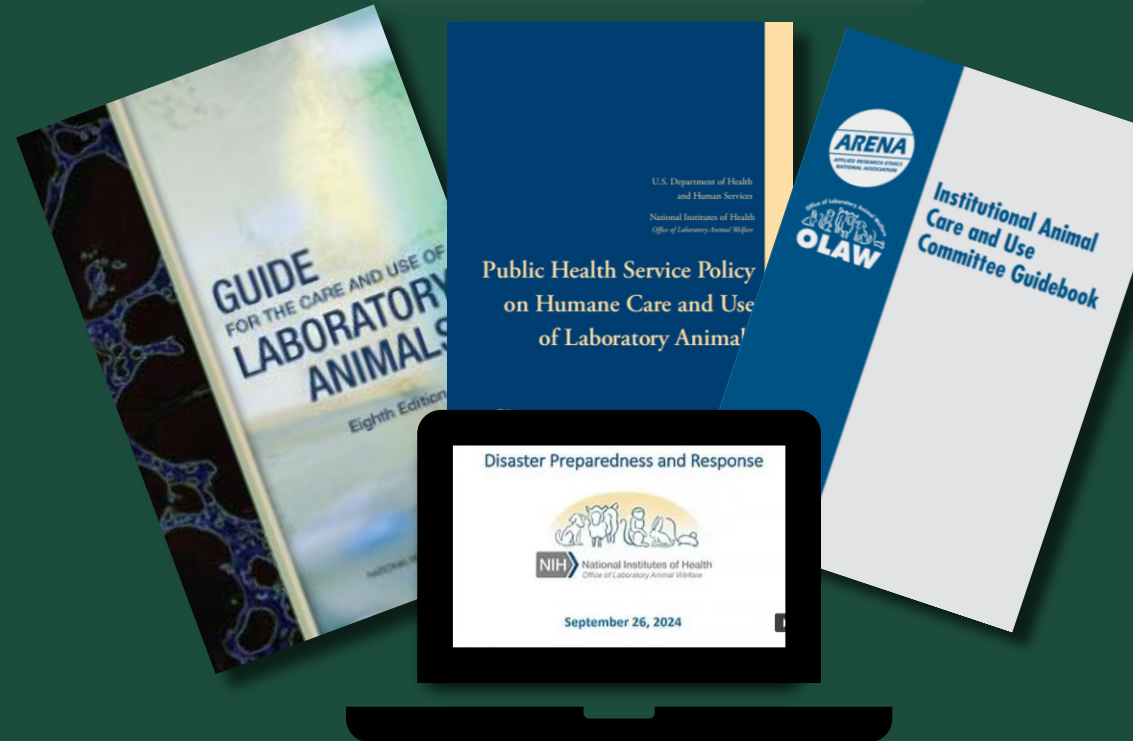
The IACUC
The PI and Research Staff



Other Federal Participants

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
 - Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
- **US National Research Council**
 - Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR)
 - National Academies Press (NAP)

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare



Homework



1. Start creating your own checklist for research facility inspections

You will be able to work on your checklist after each session. We will be sharing and discussing the checklists on the last day.

2. Complete Day 1 Exercise

We will go over the answers in our next session

3. Self study- review

AWR Part 2, Subpart C (Research Facilities)

We will be focusing on the regulatory requirements in our next session



**Be sure to
bring your
Blue Book to
Day 2**