

# ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM NEWS

March 2023

## UPCOMING INSPECTIONS

~3/27 – 4/14/23  
IACUC Semi-Annual inspections – PI Locations

Additional information and instructions will be sent closer to the date

Please check your protocol to ensure all listed locations are in use and your personnel is up to date! Contact the AWP office to make changes.



## ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM STAFFING NEWS

We are excited to share additional changes to the AWP staff!

**Leah Steyn, PhD**, joined the program as the Director effective February 27, 2023. Dr. Steyn is a highly experienced Research Scientist and has served on multiple projects related to in vitro and in vivo studies in the fields of metabolic disease and endocrinology. She has been a member of the University of Arizona for many years and will bring a comprehensive perspective to the operations of the AWP. Join us in welcoming Dr. Steyn to the AWP and look for her to connect with researchers on campus as she starts to move the AWP forward to meet the ever-changing needs of the research enterprise.

**Taniyah Parker**, joined the on February 13, 2023 as an IACUC Specialist. Many of you may know Taniyah from her work at UAC as an Animal Care Technician. We are pleased to have Taniyah join the team and excited to have her get up to speed on the regulatory side.

## IMPROVED NON-COMPLIANCE PROCESS

The IACUC has approved an improved process for working with unexpected outcomes and non-compliance encountered during the course of animal work.

The new process will refer to “**New Reportable Information**,” (RNI) and will include unexpected outcomes, previously referred to as “Adverse Events,” which may escalate to more serious concerns, including regulatory and institutional non-compliance. New documents have been approved as part of the process, attached here and available on our website in the Guidance section.

**I-IC-GU-115** Reportable New Information outlines the requirement to report unexpected outcomes, including animal welfare concerns, unexpected clinical signs, increased moribundity, etc, and the responsibility of the IACUC and AWP to investigate these instances.

**I-IC-SOP-112** Investigation of Reportable New Information and Determination of Non-Compliance provides the procedure by which new items are investigated by the IACUC and AWP.

**Watch for announcements for informational workshops on the RNI process, for late March or early April.**

A flowchart is also available outlining the process, and updated forms will be made available.

## UPDATES TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT REGARDING BIRDS USED IN RESEARCH

February 17 2023, the USDA announced the Final Rule to amend animal welfare regulations to include birds not bred for use in research.

Our researchers who will be most impacted are those who capture wild birds as part of their studies. We will reach out to any PIs who may be impacted in the next couple of weeks to make any needed updates to their protocols and provide any additional information.

Current Animal Welfare Act (AWA) licensees and registrants must comply with the new rule by August 21, 2023. Additional information can be found at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa\\_by\\_date/sa-2023/awa-bird-regulations](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa_by_date/sa-2023/awa-bird-regulations)

## REMINDER: TRAINING & DOCUMENTATION

As a reminder, any lab staff with contact with animals must be provided training for lab-specific procedures, outside of the basic CITI and GRST training, and all training needs to be documented. Training documentation may be reviewed during inspections or PAM visits.

Part of training should involve information on how to **access and read the animal protocol** in Cayuse Animal Oversight, and this training **should also be documented**.

## UPDATE: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/ANIMAL HAZARDS PROGRAM (AHP)

The AHP – which includes the RAQ process for new personnel – is actively transitioning to the Chester platform, which you may already be familiar with for RLSS and other safety committees. Look for announcements as the platform goes live and emails scheduling onboarding to the AHP approval in Chester.

## HAPPY SPRING!

### CONTACT US

#### Animal Welfare Program

[ORCR-IACUC@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ORCR-IACUC@email.arizona.edu)

<https://research.arizona.edu/compliance/IACUC>

**AWP Open Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10am – 12pm  
and by appointment. Email us for a Zoom link!