INSPECTION OF FACILITIES

1. **Background**

The ISU IACUC will inspect all the Institutions animal facilities, including satellite facilities and animal surgical sites at least every 6 months, using the Guide\(^1\) as a basis for evaluation.

2. **Policy**

When inspecting an animal facility:

1. **Look at the animals.**

   Do they appear healthy, given the protocols they are on? Are their living conditions appropriate for the species? Do the living conditions on the farm allow the animals to grow, mature, reproduce, and be healthy? Are the animals in good body condition (i.e., not excessively fat or thin), are they clean, and do they have adequate space to move around, lie down, etc.? Refer to the ISU IACUC Establishing Humane Endpoints SOP for body condition scores for several species.\(^2\)

   Specific items to look at are: hair coat, behavior extremes (i.e., too flighty or inactive), bedding amounts, and fecal pat consistency; gut fill is another item that one could observe along with a normal gait. Animals isolated from the group within a pen should be more thoroughly observed, including asking the manager to move the animal or get it up.

2. **Look at health records.**

   Are monitoring and/or treatment records available for each study/animal? Do the treatment records appear to be current? These should include treatments done by a veterinarian, facility staff, and the research team.

3. **Ensure that approved IACUC protocols are available either in hard copy or on the computer.**

   Does the manager know how many ongoing projects they have in the facility? Ask the facility personnel to show you the IACUC-approved protocol for a specific group or pen of animals.

4. **Look at standard operating procedures in the facilities and on the farms.**

   Are they up to date? Are they complete? Are they approved by the IACUC? Does the unit have and use a hospital pen for isolating animals that need extra care and observation?

5. **Look for expired drugs.**

   Are the drug containers labeled so that you can clearly identify what is in the bottle? Is there an expiration date? Has the expiration date passed? If a prescription medication is being used in a manner not described by the products label, is a prescription attached to the treatment records?
6. Verify pest control or rodent prevention practices are in place in the feed rooms and non-
   animal areas.

7. Look for or ask about facility issues that may contribute to possible animal injury.
   Examples would include broken boards, protruding nails, etc.

8. Equipment used for transport of animals should also be inspected.

9. Use the sample OLAW program and Facility review Checklist from the Website for the
   inspection template.

3. References and Regulations

1. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition. Institute of Laboratory
   Animal Resources, Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council, National

2. ISU IACUC SOP Establishing Humane Endpoints – Body Condition Score Appendices

3. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, Third

4. OLAW Semiannual Program Review and Facility Inspection Checklist

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