



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**
MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY

SUBJECT: Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
POLICY: 1002.1 Reporting of Unanticipated Adverse Events
EFFECTIVE: April 2024

REVISED:

REVIEWED:

Purpose

It is the policy of Great Falls College Montana State University that the procurement, housing, care, and use of animals should conform to the [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) and other relevant federal, state, and institutional policies and procedures (e.g., USDA, OLAW, AAALAC).

Policy

Any event not consistent with routine expected outcomes that results in unexpected animal welfare issues (death, disease, distress) is considered an unanticipated or adverse event. An unanticipated or adverse event must be reported to the IACUC verbally or in writing within 24 hours of identification of the event. Adverse events affecting USDA regulated species require a separate report for each affected animal.

Examples of events that MUST be reported include, but are not limited to the following:

- Animal death or illness from spontaneous disease not related to activities approved on a protocol.
- Unexpected animal death or injuries related to approved animal activities (e.g., allergic reactions, broken limbs, complications during or recovering from surgery, sudden death). Unexpected death includes an increased number of deaths over what was stated in the approved protocol.
- Death, disease, or distress due to equipment failure or natural disaster.

The IACUC Unanticipated Adverse Event Form must be completed for reporting any adverse or unanticipated event affecting animals used in teaching.

The principal investigators of the unexpected or adverse event will seek assistance from the attending veterinarian (AV) when adverse events occur. The AV can assist in assessing the situation, seeking resolutions, and helping with the report.

Consultation with the AV must occur when pain or distress is beyond the level anticipated in the protocol description or when interventional control (such as administration of analgesics) is not possible.

Acronyms

AAALAC: Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (International)

AV: Attending Veterinarian

USDA: U. S. Department of Agriculture

OLAW: Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

References

Lab Animal Volume 46, No. 6 | JUNE 2017 [Adverse Events at Research Facilities.](#)