



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE  
AND USE COMMITTEE

**IACUC POLICY # 4**  
**INSPECTION OF LABORATORIES WHERE**  
**IN VIVO ANIMAL PROCEDURES ARE PERFORMED**

**Policy**

1. Each laboratory or area where live vertebrate animals are taken for use in experiments or teaching must be inspected and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The IACUC is responsible for assuring that provisions of the Animal Welfare Act and the University of South Carolina Public Health Service Letter of Assurance Of Compliance are met with regard to procedures using laboratory animals. Animal Use Proposal (AUP) review initiates the process.
2. Rodent surgery does not require a special facility. A rodent surgical area can be a room or portion of a room that is easily sanitized and not used for any other purpose during the time of surgery.
3. Rodent surgery (survival or non-survival) will be conducted in accordance with recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*, NIH Pub. No. 85-23) and the IACUC Guidelines.

**Procedures**

1. If the laboratory has never been inspected and/or an investigator submits an AUP for the first time, the laboratory will be inspected prior to final approval of the proposal. The IACUC Administrator will schedule an inspection of the laboratory.
2. Laboratories in which non-survival experiments (e.g. euthanasia for tissue collection or physiological experiments) are performed require only an initial inspection, but may be visited by the IACUC at the discretion of the Committee Chair.
3. Laboratories will be inspected on at least a semiannual basis if any of the following are performed:
  - a. rodent survival surgery
  - b. non-survival surgery requiring anesthesia for more than one hour
  - c. procedures which may cause distress or minor, transient pain to the animal (e.g. swim tanks, electrode shocks)
4. Animals will not be housed in any laboratory or other area outside the Animal Resource Facilities unless the area has been specifically designated as a satellite animal holding area. Satellite areas will be inspected by the IACUC at least semiannually if vertebrate animals are present.

