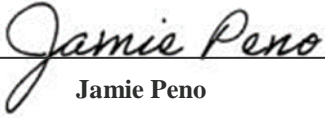
 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> DIVISION OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION <small>Research Integrity & Compliance</small> </div>		Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Standard Operating Procedures	
Title: Emergency and Disaster Plans			
Effective Date:	December 22, 2020	Document Number:	IACUC-SOP-02-04.00
Approval/Date: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  _____ Jamie Peno Director, Research Integrity and Compliance </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> 12/22/2020 _____ Date </div> </div>			
REVISION HISTORY			
Date	Section	Author	

PURPOSE

The University of North Texas Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee is responsible for ensuring that appropriate measures are put in place to provide a plan for humane handling, treatment, transportation, housing and care of animals during a disaster or emergency in cooperation with the UNT Emergency Management Plan.

SCOPE

Principal Investigators and Laboratory Animal Facility Managers should ensure that each laboratory housing animals should have an appropriate emergency response plan in place and readily available in each lab area that follows the guidelines below.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNT- University of North Texas, Denton
 IACUC- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
 SOP/SOP's- Standard Operating Procedure(s)
 PI- Principal Investigator
 USDA- United States Department of Agriculture
 LAF- Laboratory Animal Facility
 AV- Attending Veterinarian

PROCEDURES

- I. Each laboratory housing animals should have an emergency response plan in place. Plans and procedures should ensure and address the following:
 - A. Personnel safety, health and welfare

- B. Animal safety, health and welfare
- C. Continuity of care
- II. Communication responsibilities and methods of contact should be established.
 - A. Facility and/ or Lab Managers should maintain emergency contact information for all Principal Investigators with research animals in the facility and have them readily available.
 - B. Principal Investigators should maintain emergency contact information for all lab personnel.
 - C. Campus emergency phone numbers should be compiled and readily available in housing and lab areas and should include at least the following:
 - 1. Emergency- 911
 - 2. UNT Police Department
 - 3. UNT Attending Veterinarian
 - 4. Lab Management
 - 5. Facility Management
 - 6. IACUC Administration
 - 7. Risk Management Services
 - D. Risk Management Services and/ or the UNT Police Department will maintain communications with local, state, and federal officials as required.
 - E. The Attending Veterinarian, in coordination with IACUC Administrators, should initiate and document any required communications with USDA and/ or OLAW.
- III. Emergency Preparedness Training should be provided to personnel regularly.
- IV. Emergency materials, equipment, and resources should be designated, maintained, and appropriately labeled in each animal lab facility. Examples may include:
 - A. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - B. First Aid Kit
 - C. Adequate basic medical supplies for all animals housed
 - D. Adequate euthanasia supplies for all animals housed
 - E. Batteries or back-up power supplies/ generators
 - F. First Aid Kits
 - G. Adequate supply of food, bedding, water (or water substitutes/ hydrogels) should be on hand
 - H. Emergency access rights and mechanisms for essential personnel
- V. Emergencies that should be considered in animal facility disaster plans include, but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Sustained power outage
 - B. Sustained loss of water supply
 - C. Sustained ventilation failure
 - D. Fires or explosions
 - E. Flooding of plumbing systems
 - F. Disastrous weather conditions causing damage to structures or preventing animal care staff from reporting to work
 - G. Animal rights incursion or protest affecting access to animal facilities
 - H. Animal escapes from housing
- VI. Action Plans should be put into place for situations that may provide advance notice as well as for immediate emergencies. Action plans should also address response and recovery procedures for lab animals following a disaster or emergency.
 - A. If advance notice of impending emergencies (such as weather events or facility planned outages) are given, an assessment of supplies and procedures should be made and should consider:

1. Down-time expected
 2. What equipment or environmental elements and controls will be affected?
 3. Will on-site animal care be possible?
 - a) If yes, what supplies may be required to maintain animals appropriately (i.e., fans, heaters, back-up batteries and/ or generators, flashlights, extra caging, portable supplies of water)
 - b) If no, can animals be evacuated and/ or relocated?
 - i. If yes, where and how should animals be evacuated?
 - ii. If no, can short term provisions be provided prior to personnel evacuation?
 - (i) E.g., Fill all food and water containers in animal rooms, provide secondary containers with extra food/water, prop animal room doors open.
 - (ii) If the ability to provide care is significantly impaired and animals cannot be evacuated, euthanasia by a trained individual may be deemed necessary by the UNT Attending Veterinarian, if possible. Euthanasia determining factors may include:
 1. Pain/ distress, beyond rescue
 2. Availability of feed, caging, rooms, environmental controls, specific animal or species requirements
 3. PI input for study-specific aims
 4. Loose and unidentified animals
- B.** In the case of an emergency where there may be little to no prior notice, it may be necessary to immediately evacuate and relocate or humanely euthanize animals prior to personnel evacuation. Emergency Plans should consider:
1. Methods of prioritizing animals
 - a) Animals in an area of known hazard
 - b) Animals that are a hazard to the public or other animals
 - c) Animals injected with hazardous substances
 - d) USDA covered species
 - e) Genetically distinct animals
 - f) Irreplaceable animals according to study specific aims
 2. Transport and relocation methods
 3. What supplies and documentation should be relocated with the animals
- C.** Response and recovery plans following disasters and/ or emergency situations should be included in facility procedures. Once access to facilities is granted:
1. Prioritize and locate areas of known hazards, animals that may be considered hazards, or animals exposed to known hazards first to stabilize these animals and environments.
 2. Animal health assessments should be completed in order to provide critical care and maintain biosecurity.
 3. Triage all animal survivors.
 4. Conduct animal inventory to identify potential escapes or losses. Notify the appropriate agencies of possible escapes.
 5. Remove animal carcasses and follow proper storage and disposal procedures.
 6. Evacuate surviving animals or provide animal enclosure cleaning as necessary to minimize animals remaining in poor conditions.
 7. Assess and address equipment and environmental conditions that remain impaired.

REFERENCES

1. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

APPENDICES

IACUC Standard Operating Procedures