

AAALAC International Accreditation Process

Chou – Chu Hong
D.V.M., Ph.D.

Development Center for
biotechnology

AAALAC International

- ◆ AAALAC International

Association of Assessment and
Accreditation for Laboratory Animal
Care International

What is AAALAC?

- ◆ Accreditation and assessment for animal care and use programs.
- ◆ Completely voluntary and confidential programs.
- ◆ Open to all institutions that use animals in research, teaching or testing.
- ◆ International in scope – more than 640 institutions in 18 countries are accredited.

What is AAALAC?

- ◆ Private nonprofit organization.
- ◆ Governed by 60+ “Member Organizations,” (AVMA, ICLAS, AALAS, FELASA, etc.).
- ◆ Programs are carried out by a 33-member Council on Accreditation and 170+ ad hoc Consultants.
- ◆ Offices in Rockville, Maryland (USA) and Brussels, Belgium.

Accreditation ...

- ◆ Is completely voluntary and confidential.
- ◆ Is performance-based.
- ◆ Is a peer-review process.

Organization

- ◆ More than 60 “Member Organizations” govern AAALAC, and are represented on the Board of Trustees.
- ◆ The 33-member “Council on Accreditation” carries out the accreditation program.
- ◆ 170+ “ad hoc Consultants” help conduct program evaluations.

Why earn accreditation?

- ◆ It represents quality.
- ◆ It promotes scientific validity.
- ◆ It's a recruiting tool.
- ◆ It demonstrates accountability (to the public, etc.).

Why earn accreditation?

- ◆ It provides a confidential, external peer-review.
- ◆ It impresses funding sources and partners.
- ◆ It shows a real commitment to humane animal care.

Two AAALAC programs

1. The AAALAC accreditation program
2. Program Status Evaluation

Program Status Evaluation

- ◆ Separate from the accreditation program.
- ◆ Familiarizes you with AAALAC standards and the accreditation process.
- ◆ Receive an in-depth, on-site assessment.
- ◆ Get specific recommendations.
- ◆ Advises you of your “accreditability” – often used prior to applying for accreditation.

The process

- ◆ Request an application package or download it from *www.aaalac.org/download*
- ◆ Complete the application and develop a “Program Description” – a document that details all aspects of your program. (An outline of what to include is included in the application package.)
- ◆ Receive an objective, peer-review evaluation from an AAALAC site-visit team.

The process

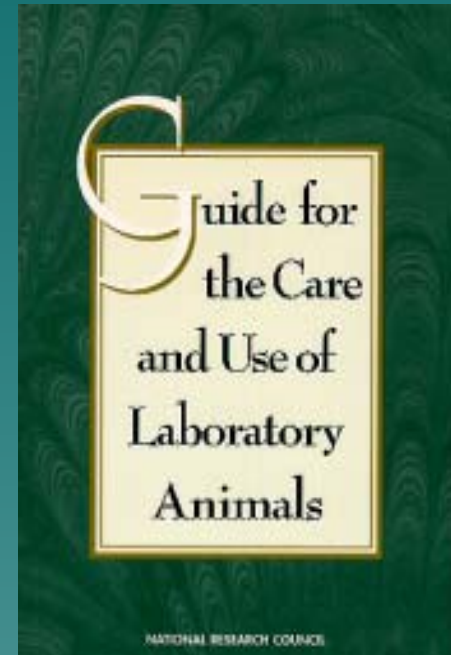
- ◆ Receive immediate feedback during your site visit “exit briefing.”
- ◆ The site-visit team submits their report to the Council on Accreditation.
- ◆ Council deliberations take place.
- ◆ AAALAC accreditation is awarded.

The process

- ◆ AAALAC accredits your entire “program” which includes:
 - animal care and use policies and responsibilities
 - animal environment, housing and management
 - veterinary medical care
 - your physical plant

Standards

- ◆ AAALAC standards are based on applicable local and national regulations, plus the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (NRC 1996).



Some notes on the process

- ◆ The entire process is completely confidential.
- ◆ There are opportunities to provide feedback and explanations to the site-visit team and the Council throughout the process.
- ◆ AAALAC's peer-review accreditation system is designed to be collegial and educational.

International representation

- ◆ AAALAC has a multinational Board of Trustees, including representation from ICLAS and FELASA.
- ◆ Accredited organizations in 18 countries including:

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, England, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Korea, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, The Netherlands, and the United States.

Maintaining accreditation

- ◆ You must submit an annual program report to AAALAC. (The annual report form is mailed to you.)
- ◆ You must be revisited and re-evaluated once every three years.
- ◆ Major program changes or deficiencies must be reported to AAALAC in between site visits.

Accreditation ...

- ◆ Provides a confidential, third-party peer review.
- ◆ Promotes scientific validity.
- ◆ Represents quality.
- ◆ Demonstrates accountability.
- ◆ Assures funding sources.
- ◆ Helps recruit quality people.
- ◆ Shows a real commitment to humane animal care.

What people value most about accreditation ...

- ◆ “It assures the credibility of our program among funding sources.”
- ◆ “It provides the public with a positive image.”
- ◆ “It helps convince management of the need to commit resources to maintain a high-quality program.”

What people value most about accreditation ...

- ◆ “It conveys a high level of professionalism to the scientific community.”
- ◆ “Application of AAALAC standards ensures high-quality research and animal care, resulting in better science.”
- ◆ “Completing the Program Description helps us identify weaknesses and self-correct them.”

What people value most about accreditation ...

- ◆ “It assures our customers that we have a quality program.”
- ◆ “The rigorous peer-review evaluation ensures that we’re doing things right.”

Accreditation also entitles you to:

- ◆ Receive AAALAC's proprietary electronic newsletter, the "AAALAC E-brief."
- ◆ A free subscription to AAALAC's *Connection* newsletter.
- ◆ Telephone and e-mail consultations.

Accreditation also entitles you to:

- ◆ Listing in the printed and online versions of the “AAALAC Directory of Accredited Programs.”
- ◆ Access to AAALAC’s Members’ Only Web site:
 - ◆ Materials to promote your accreditation
 - ◆ Public relations kit
 - ◆ Tools for maintaining your accreditation
- ◆ Periodic updates on the accreditation program and animal care and use issues.

Getting started

- ◆ Download an application and instructions for completing your program description at www.aaalac.org.
- ◆ Or call 301.231.5353, e-mail accredit@aaalac.org.
- ◆ Contact AAALAC anytime for assistance!

Fees

- ◆ Fees cover the direct cost of the site visit plus administrative expenses.
- ◆ There is a one-time application fee.
- ◆ Accredited institutions pay an annual fee.
- ◆ Fees are currently based on animal facility size.

Thank You for Your Attention



Implementation of the Accreditation Process – A step by step approach

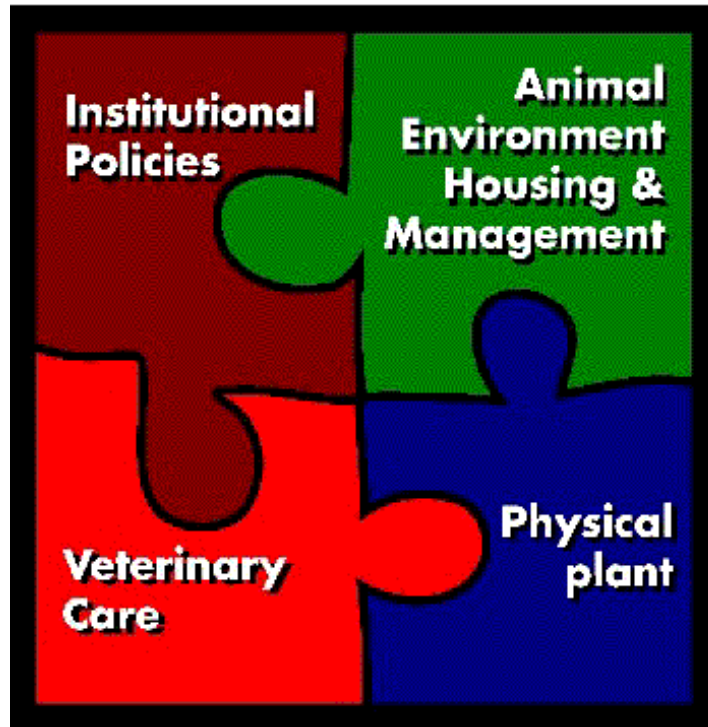
Chou – Chu Hong D.V.M.,Ph.D.

Development Center for Biotechnology

The process

- AAALAC accredits your entire “program” which includes:
 - ❑ **animal care and use policies and responsibilities**
 - ❑ **animal environment, housing and management**
 - ❑ **veterinary medical care**
 - ❑ **your physical plant**
-

What is a program



"Performance standards define an outcome in detail and provide criteria for assessing that outcome, but do not limit the methods by which to achieve that outcome."



Accreditation Process (1)

- (1) Both the management of laboratory animal facility and animal care and use programs have satisfied the applicable laws , regulation and the guidelines of “ Guide for Laboratory Animal Care and Use” , the accreditation will be awarded.
-

Accreditation Process (2)

- (2) To establish a well-planned, well-designed, well-constructed, and properly maintained laboratory animal facility
 - (3) To establish the Institutional policies and responsibilities for an animal care and use program in compliance with applicable laws and regulation
-

To achieve the AAALAC International accreditation

The management teams of the laboratory animal facility have to prepare the following documents for the site visits:

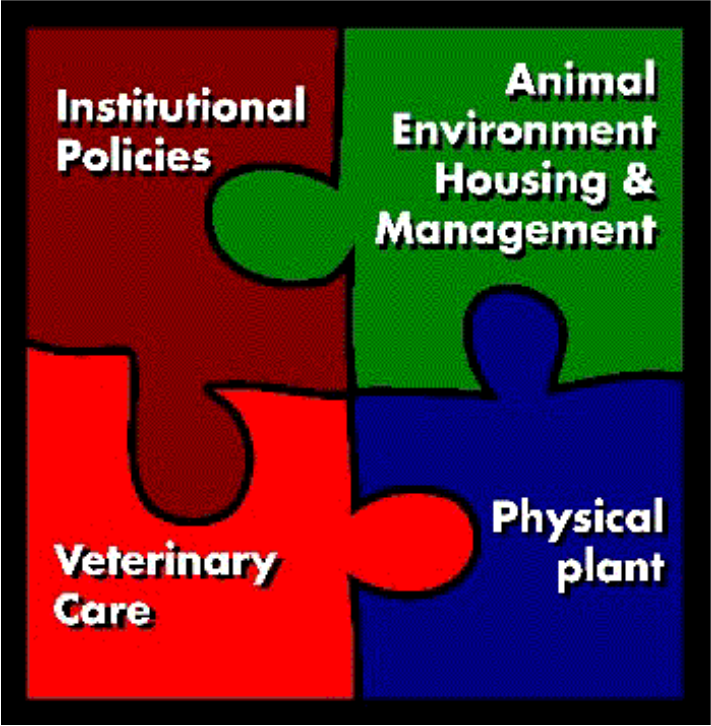
- 1). Physical layout of laboratory animal facility, major equipment and instruments, HVAC, functional space allocations, information of animal care personnel training and education and description of laboratory animal care and use programs
-

To achieve the AAALAC International accreditation

- 2). Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including general items, facility operation and environment, personnel, husbandry, animal health and diagnostics, technical procedures and supplies
 - 3). Records of animal study protocols
 - 4). Records of IACUC meeting minutes and activities
-

To achieve the AAALAC International accreditation

- 5). Records of IACUC and /or Institutional Safety Committee (ISC) activities related to usage of radioactive materials , biohazard and hazardous chemicals in the animal studies
-



The Regulations of Animal Experimentation

- Laws (if applicable)
 - Administrative order and regulations
 - Institutional policies and rules
 - laboratory quality assurance manual
 - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
 - Animal care personnel---- Investigators
 - Management---- Animal experimentation
-

National Level

1. Legislation governing animal experimentation
 - a. Animal welfare Act (U.S.A.)
 - b. Animals (scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (U.K.)
 - c. Directive for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes (86/609/EEC)
 - d. Animal Protection Law (Taiwan)
-

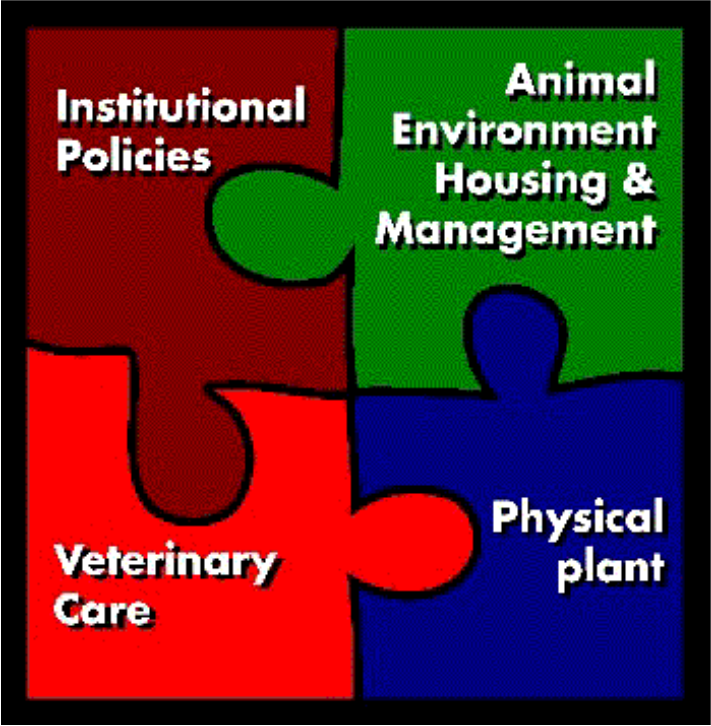
National Level

2. Regulation and Guidelines

- a. Non-Clinical Good Laboratory Practices (GLP)
 - b. OECD-GLP
 - c. ISO, USP
-

Local Level

1. The Institutional Animal care and Use Committee (IACUC)
 2. The attending veterinarian
 3. Animal care personnel
 - a. Facility director
 - b. Scientists/teachers
 - c. Animal care staffs
 4. SOP and related documentation
-



Laboratory Animal Facilities

- 1. Major functional areas:
 - a. Animal reception/quarantine rooms
 - b. Conditioning/holding/treatment rooms
 - c. Animal experimentation facilities
 - d. Surgery and procedure rooms
 - e. Support facilities : (1) Washing areas (2) waste disposal (3) feed and bedding storage (4) personnel offices and reception area
-

Laboratory Animal Facilities

- 2. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems:

temperature and humidity control, air exchanges and ventilation

- 3. Cage systems and space requirements
-

A good management of animal facility (1)

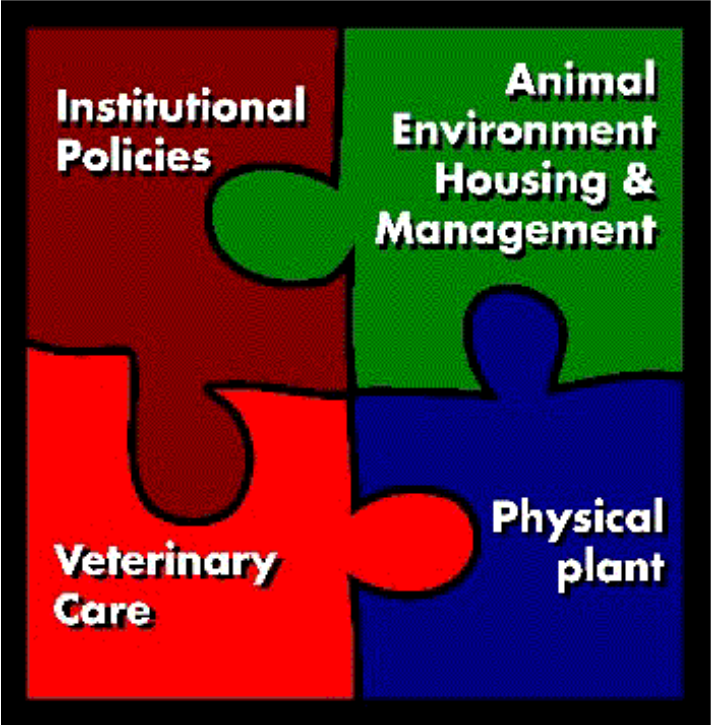
- Many factors should be considered in planning for adequate and appropriate physical and social environment, housing, space and management.
 - 1). The project goals and experiment design (e.g., research, testing, production and breeding etc.,)
-

A good management of animal facility (2)

- 2). The characteristics of species, strain and breed of the animals, including sex, age, size, behavior and health
 - 3). The availability or suitability of enrichments, proper housing environment and space
 - 4). The animal manipulation of the procedures conducted (e.g., surgery, injection, bleeding etc.,)
-

A good management of animal facility (3)

- 5). The handling of hazardous materials and infectious agents
 - 6). The duration of the holding and experimental period
 - 7). Proper supplies of feed, bedding and water (e.g., ad libitum or restricted)
 - A good management of the animal facility will reduce the variables in the animal studies and obtain good quality of data
-



The adequate and effective veterinary medical care program

- 1). Preventive medicine
 - 2). Surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, control of diseases and zoonosis
 - 3). Management of protocol associated with infectious diseases and biohazard
 - 4). Anesthesia, analgesia and euthanasia
-

The adequate and effective veterinary medical care program

- 5). Surgery and post surgical care programs
 - 6). Assessment of animal well-being
 - The adequate and effective veterinary medical care program could provide guidance to investigator and all personnel involved in the animal care and use of animals, promote the occupation safety and health, and protect against injury and risk of zoonoses.
-

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

