

Office of Animal Research Support (OARS)



Announcements & Reminders

[2024-2025 IACUC Deadlines and Meeting Dates](#)

[Research Liaison Department Assignments](#)

Investigators are encouraged to submit protocols that are due for 3-year renewal early to allow time for pre-review of the protocol by the research liaisons and veterinarians. This will help expedite the review and approval of the protocol. Should you have any questions, please contact OARS at iacuc@yale.edu.



Upcoming Facility Inspections

The following facilities are being inspected in April 2024: AMISB, BCMM, CMHC, GML, GSF, LCI, LEPH, SEAMCO, VEHICLES, WC, YSB

Please contact [Shannon Denison](#) if you need further information. As always, please check your spaces periodically to ensure the fulfillment of IACUC expectations. The [inspection checklist](#) the IACUC utilizes to document findings is available on the OARS website.

IMPORTANT: If you have locked cabinets, drawers, or boxes that contain drugs or materials with expiration dates, please make sure that they are unlocked for the IACUC to inspect the contents. If you do not want to leave the container unlocked and unsupervised, then the IACUC's expectation is that you be readily available to open them. Contact [Shannon Denison](#) with your contact information and the areas of interest.

Health On Track (HoT)

[Health On Track](#), Yale's new self-service system for tracking health requirements, is now available. As I outlined in an [earlier communication](#), *Health On Track* centralizes the management of health requirements. Health requirements may include vaccines, examinations, or tests related to your position at Yale.

Do I have a health requirement?

If you are identified as an individual with active job-related requirements, you will receive an email notification alerting you of any outstanding health requirements. This notification will direct you to the *Health On Track* portal, where information is provided to explain why a requirement is assigned and how to meet that requirement.

- You will sign into *Health On Track* with your Yale NetID and password, complete several one-time consents, and then follow directions to satisfy your requirements.
- Employees with upcoming requirements will receive a 60-day reminder email.
- Weekly reminders will begin 30 days prior to the due date.
- Employees with overdue requirements will receive weekly emails.
- Employees who need vaccines or blood work to satisfy requirements can get these free of charge through [Employee Health](#).

An extended grace period until **June 30, 2024**, applies to existing requirements that are past due. Your manager and Human Resources Business Partner will receive weekly reports listing employees with outstanding requirements. We encourage you to satisfy your health requirements as soon as possible.

If you do not receive a notification for health requirements, no action is required of you.

Other important details

- [Training](#) is available, including videos and user guides.
- *Health On Track* replaces the Training Management System (TMS) and the medical vaccine portal for managing health requirements. All information you may have submitted through TMS in the past has been transitioned into [Health On Track](#).
- *Health On Track* and [Workday Learning](#) implementations are aligned to ensure a smooth transition from TMS.

Questions?

For questions about *Health On Track* features, please contact the Campus Health Systems team at Campus.Health.Systems@yale.edu.

Expectations for Minors

Students/visiting undergraduates who are 16 to 17 years of age have additional IACUC training requirements.

If the student/visiting undergraduate is participating in animal-related activities, the responsible faculty member/PI must contact [OARS](#) and is required to register the minor with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) via [EHS Integrator](#). Please note that if animals will be present during the visit, the PI and senior lab personnel are responsible for the oversight of the student. Completion of additional forms from the Office of the Provost may be required.

Students/visiting undergraduates shall not have direct physical contact with live laboratory animals unless approved as personnel on an IACUC-approved protocol.

Students/visiting undergraduates observing or participating in activities in proximity of laboratory animals must obtain medical clearance by logging into [Health On Track](#).

Students/visiting undergraduates are also required to complete the following courses via the [AALAS Learning Library](#):

1. Introduction to Laboratory Animal Medicine
2. Ethical Decision-Making in Animal Research

Instructions for institutional sign-in to the AALAS Learning Library can be found on the [OARS Training page](#).

Students/visiting undergraduates must also complete species and procedure-specific training prior to participating in animal-related activities. Please contact OARS to ensure that all the requirements are clear. Please review the [Animal Care and Use Training Program policy](#) for additional information.

EHS instructional help guides are available to better assist you in the application process: [Help Guide- Minors](#)

[Help Guide- Visiting Undergraduates](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Relevant University policies:

[Minors Participating in Research or Clinical Activities Policy](#)

[Visiting Undergraduates Participating in Research or Clinical Activities Policy](#)

Please let us know ([OARS](#) or [EHS](#)) if you have any questions or concerns.

Alternative for Metabolic Cage Use

LabSand is a product that keeps the urine on top, making sample collection easy. The method maintains high levels of morality and wellness for animals.

LabSand is laboratory validated and veterinarian approved, and has gone through extensive research and validation testing, guaranteeing it will not change any parameters of the obtained urine sample. Some benefits to using the sand:

- Obtain a clean uncontaminated sample
- 100% natural, nontoxic & biodegradable
- Reduce animal stress
- No suffering & noninvasive
- Recommended by top pharmaceutical companies

Please click the link [LabSand for Urine Collection](#) if you would like more information.

Animal Use Locations

This is a reminder that the location(s) for live-animal work conducted outside of YARC-managed facilities must be identified on an IACUC-approved protocol.

For labs that may be relocating or expanding, prior to conducting live-animal work in a new laboratory location, a modification to the protocol must be submitted and approved identifying building, room number and procedure(s) to be performed. This includes survival-surgery, non-survival surgery, euthanasia, behavioral assays, imaging, hazardous agent use, and any other animal-related procedures performed in the lab.

If any questions, please contact OARS at iacuc@yale.edu or your [Departmental Research Liaison](#).

Euthanasia Cages

There have been cases of cages left on YARC euthanasia racks without sufficient food and/or water. When placing a cage on a euthanasia rack, please ensure the following:

1. Water bottle/bag is at least 2/3rd full.
2. Sufficient food provided for the number of animals in the cage (3-4 pellets per mouse, 6-8 pellets per rat).
3. Greater than 2/3rd of the bedding is dry.
4. Cage density requirements as detailed in rodent housing policies are followed.

[Click here for a visual aid showing these minimum requirements.](#)

More information can be found at:

- [4483 Housing Policy](#)
- [4420 Housing Policy: Mouse](#)
- [4421 Housing Policy: Rat](#)

If you have any questions, please contact IACUC@yale.edu.

Policy Updates/November 2023-February 2024

[Media and Animal Research](#)

- This policy was reviewed and approved by the IACUC. Appropriate oversight of all media provides for the safety of research animals and protects the confidentiality and integrity of research.
- Use of recording devices such as cameras, video recorders, tape recorders, cell phones, tablets, etc. in a secured animal facility **must** receive prior approval from the Director of Yale Animal Resources Center, or designee, with the following **exceptions**:
 - The PI or authorized designee requiring such images to document procedures or outcomes, or to otherwise support research data. Although, a brief description of imaging or recording should be described in the IACUC protocol.
 - Authorized personnel (e.g., VCS or their designees) utilizing such images to assist in the clinical diagnosis of disease, to monitor the health and/or wellbeing of the animals, to monitor surgical procedures, or to observe behavior of animals that are being socially housed to determine compatibility.
 - Authorized personnel requiring such images to document compliance-related incidents.
 - Authorized external visitors utilizing images to document inspection findings (e.g., USDA, AAALAC).
 - Histological sections and radiographic images related to the research project.

[Adverse Events](#)

- This policy was reviewed and approved by the IACUC with no changes from the previous version.
- The IACUC, through [OARS](#), should be notified in real-time of unexpected and unplanned situations outside of the morbidity or mortality described in the approved protocol, so that a timely resolution to an adverse event may be achieved.
- Adverse events are situations that result in death or significantly greater than anticipated physical harm, health deterioration, or pain and/or distress to the animal, as judged by the investigator, veterinary staff or animal care staff.

[Experimental Allergic \(Autoimmune\) Encephalomyelitis \(EAE\) in Rodents](#)

- This policy was reviewed and approved by the IACUC with no changes from the previous version.
- This document describes the specialized care of EAE animals established to ensure uniform humane care and treatment.
- It is the responsibility of the investigator and his/her staff to provide all specialized care for rodents with EAE.
- All proposed specialized care must be described in the protocol and a Special Instruction form for each care item approved by the IACUC.

As always, please contact [OARS](#) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

~OARS Team