April 1, 2020

Animal Care Committee Oversight

The spread of COVID-19 and the efforts to contain it have resulted in many challenges for CCAC-certified institutions. Despite these turbulent times, in the event of difficult ethical decisions related to the euthanasia of animals held in facilities, the CCAC expects animal care committees (ACCs) to be directly involved in the decision-making process, and reminds institutions that all euthanasia must comply with ACC-approved standard operating procedures.

The CCAC has recently published the Animal Numbers Tracking Form for institutions to report the number of animals impacted by disruptions due to COVID-19. The CCAC requests that institutions report any changes to animal use within three months of occurrence.

The CCAC recognizes that front-line animal care personnel are, and will continue to be, impacted by the unprecedented decisions affecting animal numbers in institutions. We encourage institutions to fully support these care providers, and expect institutions to have mechanisms in place to receive and address concerns about their institutional programs. The CCAC is also available to listen to any concerns from stakeholders in CCAC-certified institutions.

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