



July 10, 2007

Susan E. Wilson-Sanders, D.V.M., M.S. Director. University Animal Care The University of Arizona  
1501 North Campbell Avenue  
P.O. Box 245092  
Tucson, AZ 85724-5092

Dear Dr. Wilson-Sanders:

The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International) has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to The University of Arizona. Tucson. Arizona. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining a high quality program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the strong institutional commitment, as evidenced by the construction of a new animal facility; the outstanding leadership and your contributions to the program through facility improvement grant awards; the excellent administrative support provided by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) coordinator to the Committee; the comprehensive, University-wide environmental enrichment program; the oversight and coordination of the agricultural animal program by the farm animal research specialist; and the dedication and concern for animal welfare exhibited by all personnel involved with animal care and use. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC 1996. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated February 23, 2007 detailing prompt actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items included: addressing cagewasher safety issues; ensuring appropriate anesthetic and analgesic use and record-keeping; ensuring appropriate safety practices in several areas; addressing concerns related to postoperative care, outdated drugs, guillotine maintenance, and sanitation practices; improving oversight of satellite facilities; allocating money to repair or replace damaged fencing; and planning to replace inadequate facilities for Biosafety Level-2 animal housing. In addition, Council acknowledges your confirmation of appropriate ether storage.

While Council is pleased to continue Full Accreditation, the following suggestion for improvement of the animal care and use program is offered:

Biosafety Level-2 infectious disease research was conducted at the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Old Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory animal facilities. These facilities were in poor condition, could not be sanitized easily, and had questionable airflow. In addition, there were unsealed wood surfaces, exposed conduits, standing water on the floor, holes in the ceilings, and cracked floors. The condition of these facilities is inappropriate for Biosafety Level-2 animal housing. The Council acknowledges your intent to construct a new large animal containment facility, and discourages the conduct of Biosafety Level-2 research in the existing facilities unless they are repaired or replaced.

AAALAC International requires an annual report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. The Council on Accreditation notes that there is no obligation for institutions to make program changes based on suggestions for improvement. However, if your institution chooses to implement program modifications in response to the suggestion described above, the annual report provides an opportunity to summarize the actions taken. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or concerns should they occur. Please note that, at your request, AAALAC International will provide your institution with a separate letter simply verifying that your animal care and use program is accredited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale G. Martin".

Dale G. Martin, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
President, Council on Accreditation  
DGM:cmw  
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