

Continuing Review

Federal regulations require that all protocols involving the use of vertebrate animals be reviewed at least annually by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). As part of this process, Creighton's IACUC asks investigators whether new techniques or approaches are available that would allow animal use to be reduced or eliminated, or that would refine painful or potentially painful procedures. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires that, whenever possible, researchers should Replace, Reduce, and Refine (the three R's) animal use. This means:

- Replacing animals in part or full with non-animal systems (e.g., in vitro, computer or mathematical models) or less sentient animal species (e.g., insect or molluscan models instead of mammalian models).
- Reducing the number of animals to the minimum required to obtain scientifically valid data through a priori consideration of appropriate experimental and statistical design (e.g., more advanced statistical tests, power analyses).
- Refining procedures to lessen or eliminate pain or distress, thereby enhancing animal well-being (e.g., less-invasive surgical techniques, terminating experiments during earlier rather than later stages of morbidity).

Investigators on all categories of protocols are encouraged to conduct regular searches of appropriate journals and databases for new methods that would support these goals. Such a search is required on an annual basis for all Category E protocols. Any techniques or approaches that could reduce animal use or animal pain or distress without adversely affecting experimental outcomes should be incorporated into a protocol.

The Continuing Review form is not applicable to protocols that have reached their end dates. Triennial Review of expiring protocols requires submission of a newly completed Protocol Application.

Modifications to Protocols

The Continuing Review process offers investigators the opportunity to request modifications of their protocols, including modifications in support of the three R's. All changes should be requested by amending the approved version of your protocol. If you have questions or require assistance in determining the category of desired changes, please contact the IACUC Chair at iacuc@creighton.edu or the IACUC office at 280-2082.

Submission

This completed form must be submitted to the IACUC office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month prior to the anniversary date of the protocol (unless requested earlier by IACUC). Failure to submit the Animal Protocol Continuing Review form on time will result in the protocol being placed on administrative hold until the next regular IACUC meeting. While on administrative hold, no experimental work shall be performed and no new animals shall be ordered under the protocol, but animals already on campus may be maintained. If the Continuing Review form is not submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month following the anniversary month of the protocol, the protocol will be closed at the end of that month.