

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) Policy and Procedure

Investigators may, at times, find that their approved procedures might best be adjusted for optimal animal welfare or procedural outcomes. Normally, investigators use standardized protocol revision procedures to alter their approved procedures, when the modifications are not urgent. However, situations may arise which make procedural adjustments necessary on a relatively short time scale. Under these conditions, investigators may follow the Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC) procedure described herein.

Purpose:

To allow investigators rapid feedback/approval from the IACUC Attending Veterinarian (AV) in order to adjust/optimize approved animal use procedures in time-limited situations.

Procedure:

Investigators contact the AV (preferred contact methods listed below) and describe the adjustments requested to their approved procedures. At this point, the AV has several options:

- approve the requested procedural changes
- delay a decision on the request until such time as consultation with other professionals or information gathering can be completed
- suggest alternatives to the requested amendment(s)
- defer a requested amendment to the full IACUC
- deny the requested amendment

Only if and when the AV approves procedural amendments can investigators operate according to the new terms. The AV must document to the IACUC any animal use protocol modifications that are approved via VVC.

Approval criterion:

When the AV receives a VVC request, the AV will evaluate the request. Based upon the AV's experience and training, the AV will determine whether the change requested is reasonable for the particular animal or study species involved, and whether the requested change is consistent with IACUC-reviewed and approved procedures.

Conditions:

- The VVC procedure is intended for minor procedural adjustments (changes to approved animal anesthesia, alternative methods of tissue sampling, changes in euthanasia method to another AVMA-approved method, and the like). It is not available for
 - the additional of new procedures or animals
 - changes which would result in greater levels of animal pain/distress
 - changes in personnel
 - changes in study objectives, study species, or approved study areas
- It is expected that the VVC procedure is used infrequently, only in relatively urgent situations. It is not intended to replace the normal protocol revision procedure, which is the expected/normal method by which protocol modifications are obtained.
- The rapidity with which VVC decisions are made is at the discretion of the AV and the IACUC. Neither the AV nor the IACUC is under any obligation to act within a specific time frame. However, it is expected that evaluations of VVC requests will not be delayed without cause.
- The AV has sole and final authority over amendments requested via VVC. Investigators must not act via amended procedures unless and until the AV approves them.

Attending Veterinarian (AV) contact information:

Dr. Mark Beere

Kittanning Veterinary Hospital

170 E Brady Rd, Kittanning, PA 16201

work: (724) 543-2814

mobile (emergency only): 724-859-1864

email: beerevmd@windstream.net

Policy version:	Draft 02 – 23 Jan 2020
IACUC policy approval date:	15 Mar 2020