Disaster Planning

Based on the 8th Edition of the *Guide*

Stephen Durkee

OLAW Online Webinar
March 7, 2013

National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research

PHS Policy on *Guide* and **AWAR**

This Policy requires that Assured institutions base their programs of animal care and use on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and that they comply with the applicable regulations issued by the USDA under the Animal Welfare Act.

IV.A.1. Footnote 2

OLAW Disaster Plan Guidance

PHS Assured institutions must have a disaster plan. This is not a new requirement.

◆ 1996 *Guide*: *A disaster plan that takes into account both personnel and animals should be prepared as part of the overall safety plan for the animal facility.* page 46

◆ 2011 *Guide*: *Facilities must therefore have a disaster plan.* page 35

◆ OLAW FAQ D3: *Do awardee institutions need animal facility disaster plans? Yes.*

USDA Requirement
AWA Contingency Regulation

◆ APHIS published a final rule requiring all entities regulated under the AWA to take additional steps to be better prepared for potential disaster situations.

◆ They are required to develop a plan for how they are going to respond to and recover from emergencies most likely to happen to their facility and train their employees on those plans.

◆ The goal of this rule is to increase the regulated community's awareness and understanding about their responsibilities to protect their animals in emergency situations.

◆ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/awa_contingency_plan.shtml

What is a *Best Practice*?

◆ Best practice is a method that has been shown to achieve superior results and is used as a benchmark.

◆ The guidance in this webinar represents current thinking and experience and draws on best practices followed by the biomedical research community.

Guidance Regarding Best Practice

◆ Unless specific statutory or regulatory requirements are cited, this information should be viewed as recommendations.

◆ A recommendation may not be suitable or applicable to every institution.

◆ An Assured institution may use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the PHS Policy.

"Wash your hands, eat your peas, go to bed ... There's too much regulation!"

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What's a Disaster?

...unexpected events that severely compromise ongoing animal care and well-being... *Guide p. 35*

- ❖ Catastrophic failure of critical systems
  - ❖ Pipes bursting
  - ❖ Electrical outages
  - ❖ HVAC issues
- ❖ Significant personnel absenteeism

What to Include in a Required Disaster Plan?

❖ Define actions to prevent animal pain, distress, and deaths due to loss of environmental systems

  ❖ Ventilation

  ❖ Cooling or heating

  ❖ Potable water

❖ Describe methods for preservation of:

  ❖ Animals for critical research activities
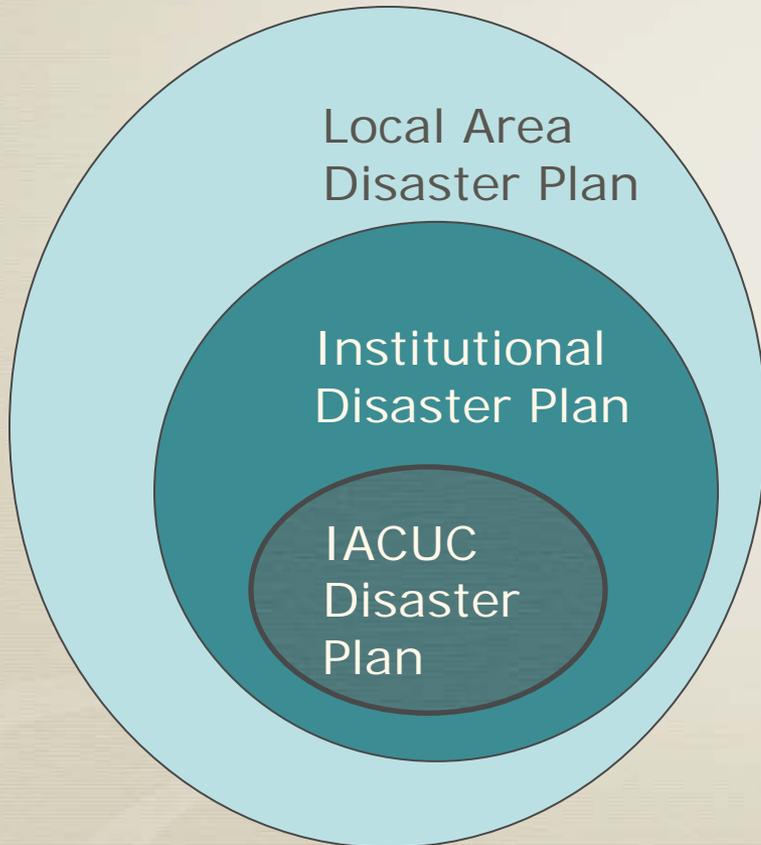
  ❖ Irreplaceable animals

What's New in New *Guide*?

❖ Establish plan in conjunction with responsible PI

❖ Establish triage priorities

  ❖ Animal populations

  ❖ Institutional needs/resources

  ❖ Animals that cannot be relocated or protected must be euthanized

❖ Identify essential personnel

❖ Train to implement disaster plan *in advance*

❖ Ensure personnel safety and provide facility access to essential personnel during or immediately after event

Institutional Involvement

❖ Institutional approval of animal disaster plans

❖ Animal disaster plan included in overall institutional emergency plans

❖ Animal disaster plan is coordinated by IO or other senior level administrator

❖ Local law enforcement and emergency personnel are provided copies of the plan

Institutional Involvement

❖ Comments are integrated into broader, area-wide planning

Local Area Disaster Plan

Institutional Disaster Plan

IACUC Disaster Plan

❖ Institutional approval of animal disaster plans

❖ Animal emergency plan included in overall institutional emergency plans

❖ Animal disaster plan is coordinated by IO or other senior level administrator

❖ Local law enforcement and emergency personnel are provided copies of the plan

Developing the Plan

❖ Make the plan location specific

❖ Identify leadership roles

❖ Identify responders

❖ Define how response will occur

    ❖ Contact methods

    ❖ Communication plan

Developing the Plan con't.

❖ Mitigation efforts - some problems are common to all events

    ❖ Lack of power, HVAC, water, access

    ❖ Evacuation

        ❖ Priority lists

    ❖ Euthanasia

Working with Investigators to Protect Their Research Animals

❖ Explain animal ownership

❖ Explain regulatory requirements of veterinary staff

❖ Ensure communication to response personnel

❖ List, establish priority of research stocks, strains

  ❖ Develop system of priority color-coding

❖ Plan triage activities, including order of steps to be taken

  ❖ Clarify actions that facility staff will take

  ❖ Clarify actions PI and research staff can take

How to Connect to Institutional Resources

❖ Identify campus emergency plan office or manager

  ❖ Office responsible for public safety

  ❖ Facilities services

  ❖ Occupational health and safety

  ❖ Needed

 ❖ Identify individual to lead animal area response

  ❖ AV or other senior level administrator

❖ Provide a copy of animal disaster plans to incident command

❖ Participate in exercises/drills on institutional level

Prepare to Meet Responsibilities to the Institution, Post-incident

❖ Media and communications needs

❖ Risk office requirements

  ❖ Insurance claim paperwork

❖ OLAW reporting requirements

Connect with Local Emergency Responders

❖ Contact and meet with local fire and police

    ❖ Create MOUs for mutual benefit

    ❖ Provide information in advance

    ❖ Arrange for walk-throughs of all sensitive areas

❖ Creating familiarity will aid all response efforts

    ❖ Facilitates access for essential personnel

    ❖ Helps to *ensure* safety of *all* personnel

Training Staff

❖ Read, learn, and know the plan

❖ Review contact information for responders

  ❖ Update on as-needed or a semi-annual basis

    ❖ Practice contacting responders

    ❖ Develop back-up methods for contacting response personnel

  ❖ Conduct a walk-through of plan

    ❖ Teach response equipment location and use

    ❖ Check expiration dates

    ❖ Understand how equipment functions

Training Staff: Evacuation Drills

❖ What will actually happen?

  ❖ Table-top and live drills

❖ Take action to ensure safety of staff first, then animal safety

❖ Evacuate animals

  ❖ Follow priority lists

  ❖ Anticipate problems in evacuation efforts

❖ Revise plan to address table-top identified changes

Practice, Practice, Practice

If you don't plan, you plan to fail

❖ Have responders conduct drills and table-top exercises

  ❖ In facility

  ❖ Walk-through steps

❖ Involve incident command or emergency planner

❖ Identify problems or issues

❖ Seek solutions or improvements

❖ Practice, practice, practice

Refinement

❖ If changes or updates are made:

    ❖ Update incident command

    ❖ Update animal response commander

    ❖ Update *all* responders

    ❖ Work with emergency planning staff to update local emergency connections

    ❖ Think about how things will function

    ❖ Ask questions!

    ❖ Meet regularly to discuss plans, changes, updates

❖ Hope these efforts are never needed!

IACUC Oversight

Assess animal disaster plan to ensure it meets institution's needs

- ❖ Mitigation plans to prevent injury/death

- ❖ Priority lists for critical or irreplaceable animals

- ❖ Provisions for euthanasia

- ❖ Approved by institution and included in overall response plan

- ❖ Local emergency response provided with a copy

Veterinary Responsibilities

During planning phase

❖ Participate in developing plan

❖ Consult PI to develop priority lists of critical or irreplaceable animals and communicate information to institutional resources

❖ Communicate decisions and needs to institutional command

❖ Serve as a resource to incident command

Veterinary Responsibilities

During emergency

❖ Communicate decisions and needs to incident command

❖ Serve as a resource to incident command

❖ Participate in or direct animal area response efforts

❖ Determine appropriate outcomes for animals

    ❖ Evacuation

    ❖ Perform or direct euthanasia of animals, if needed

Responder Responsibilities

❖ Read, learn, and know the plan

❖ Ask questions to clarify their responsibilities

❖ Know location of and how to use response equipment

❖ Communicate with research team (or PI staff)

    ❖ Update critical or irreplaceable animals list

❖ Report changes in their after-hours contact information

Response

Event occurs

❖ Evaluate overall situation

❖ Activate communication tree

❖ Initiate response cascade

❖ Assess structures

   ❖ Determine if it is safe to enter the building?

❖ Take mitigation actions

❖ Evaluate results, communicate findings, and revise course of action

Resolution

❖ If animals were evacuated, when can they return?

❖ What should be changed?

   ❖ What worked well?

   ❖ What didn't work?

❖ Evaluation of internal and external communications

❖ Report to OLAW as required

❖ Complete insurance paperwork

Resources

❖ *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals,* 8th Edition
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910

❖ Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 3rd Edition
http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=216&autotry=true&ULnotkn=true

❖ OLAW Disaster Planning and Response Resources
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/disaster_planning.htm

❖ Disaster Planning Checklist
http://www.iacuc.org/Disaster%20planning%20checklist.pdf

❖ USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Animal Care
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/index.shtml

❖ NIH Disaster Response Resources
http://oacu.od.nih.gov/disaster/index.htm

Questions 1 and 2

1. The *Guide* says "Such plans should be approved by the institution..."
Who in the institution should approve the plans?

2. The *Guide* also mentions that the animal facility plan should be part of the "overall institutional plan."
What if the institution doesn't have a plan?

Question 3

3. The *Guide* also says "Law enforcement and emergency personnel should be provided with a copy..."

Can you be more specific - I assume you don't mean the police department for my city, Boston? Or maybe you do?

Question 4

4. What gives NIH the authority to require that our institution have a disaster plan?

Questions 5, 6, and 7

5. Does the IACUC need to include the disaster plan as part of its program review at least every 6 months?

6. What level of detail must the program review of the disaster plan entail?

7. Are we required to include satellite locations in the disaster plan?

Questions 8, 9, 10, and 11

8. What timeline is acceptable to OLAW for having a disaster plan in place?

9. Does OLAW want a copy of our disaster plan?

10. Must our disaster plan be approved by OLAW?

11. Will OLAW review our disaster plan during a site visit?

Questions 12, 13, and 14

12. Is the IACUC required to develop the disaster plan itself?

13. Could you give some specifics about the need to test systems and document testing?

14. We have thousands of cages of mice. Use of injectibles for euthanasia in an emergency may not be feasible. What do you recommend?

Question 15

15. Could you provide more information about what's required with respect to notifying OLAW when there is a disaster?

Upcoming
OLAW Online Seminars

1:00PM to 2:00PM Eastern time

June 20, 2013 – Training Issues

September 19, 2013 – Topic TBD

December 12, 2013 – Topic TBD