

# Post Approval Monitoring (PAM) Programs



**CCAC NATIONAL WORKSHOP  
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# Animal Care Committees (ACCs)



- ACCs act at the local facility level to provide ethical oversight and assessment of the animal care and use program of facilities that use animals for research, teaching and testing (science).
- The purpose of this oversight is to provide the best possible life for the animals.
- **CCAC's Guidelines and Policies** provide direction to ACCs as to how to provide this oversight.
- **ACCs perform ethical review and approval of Protocols** prior to animal use  
AND ACC must assure post approval monitoring (PAM) occurs during and continues after the animals' use
- **PAM** program is developed by the ACC members with the purpose of **ensuring what they have approved is in fact what is actually happening to the animals.**

# Undertaking a PAM Program



PAM Program must suit your specific animal care and use program but still fulfil the purpose of ensuring that what has been approved is what is actually happening.

- Protocols, SOPs, agendas must be clearly written, detailed, up to date, and available for and understood by all who use them
- Monitoring must be collaborative with each person's role well defined
- Programs are affected greatly by the size and characteristics of the animal care and use program (teaching versus invasive research)
- Requires continuous oversight + review + revision
- Wide variety of methods can be used to accomplish a sound program
- Use to identify and address difficulties and concerns
- Use to ID and recognize the positives of your program.

## Start with:

# Quality Protocols, SOPs, Agendas, Endpoints



- Should be clearly written and detailed
- **Endpoints** and objective monitoring parameters defined (pain scales)
- Must be reviewed regularly and kept up to date
- All who will be using them must be very fully aware of their content (train + evaluate training)
- Must be readily available for all for reference and use

If all who work with the animals fully understand what has been approved to be done, it is more likely that is how they will do it.

# Wide Variety of Methods to Accomplish a PAM Program Collaborative with Roles Defined for Personnel

## Methods

- Regular observation
- Scheduled/unscheduled observations of procedures
- Scheduled meetings

**PAM should be  
non-confrontational**

## Personnel

- Facility manager/techs
- Veterinarian/trainer
- Veterinarian, ACC Coordinator, Chair other

# Size and Characteristics of the Program

## Small /Teaching /Vet Tech

- Many faculty at the facility are themselves on the ACC, therefore fully understand CCAC ethical opinion and oversight
- Procedures often are meant to benefit the animal + and are minimally invasive
- **Procedures** such as spays are routinely observed by many:  
i.e. Veterinarian, techs, and students
- **Curriculum review meetings are held regularly** and are an excellent opportunity to incorporate PAM review
- Relatively easy to provide regular/continuous review and revision of procedures

## Large – Research

- People working with animals may be researchers or students unfamiliar with CCAC Guidelines
- Procedures usually are not primarily of benefit to the animals
- Procedure may be invasive
- Procedures may occur off regular working hours
- Scheduling of observation of procedures may be difficult.
- PAM meetings with researchers may be challenging to schedule
- Facility SOPs versus differing ones in different labs

# Learning from Your PAM Program



1. Continuous monitoring and reporting to ACC  
i.e. Veterinarian responsible for pain management and anaesthetic: prompt updating of SOPs in response to drug shortages and SOP reviewed by ACC at next meeting.
2. Timely improvements in response to PAM Review  
Immediately following a PAM review of a course (i.e. involving handling of mice) make changes to the agenda, anaesthetic regime etc. for the next delivery which may be a year away and possibly with new instructors.
3. Response to problems identified in the PAM Review.  
(i.e. housing problems with dogs/anxiety)  
Take necessary steps to correct ASAP. i.e. Put in an outside dog run to allow more exercise.

# Thank You



**ENJOY THE WORKSHOP!**