IACUC GUIDELINE: Fish Health Monitoring Program

Guideline #: ACUP 606

| IACUC Approval: | February 17 2016 |

1. Introduction
This program includes both processing of fish from disease events and a routine fish health surveillance effort. PI's or designees of the AV are responsible for sample collection and submission.

2. Materials
- Sentinel fish
- Transport container
- Documentation forms

3. Training
All students, faculty, and staff working with laboratory animals are required to complete the following training prior to any and all animal hands-on training:

   Online training (CITI Program, www.citiprogram.org):

   i) Working with the IACUC, Basic Course
   ii) **Protocol specific training-complete all courses related to the species:** Working with Fish in Research Setting, Basic Course

   a. **Facility specific training:**
      i) Animal facility orientation-introduction to animal facilities and laboratories where animal use occurs, including introduction to Animal Care and Use Standard Operating Procedures

   b. **Continuing Education:**
      i) Annual submission of Health Assessment update
      ii) Triennial Refresher training

4. Occupational Health and Risk Assessment Program
   All students, faculty, and staff will participate in the Occupational Health and Risk Assessment Program

5. Procedures
   a. Fish Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Information:
      Contact Texas A&M Diagnostic Laboratory: http://tvmdl.tamu.edu/about-tvmdl/agency-information/contact-us/ for submission specifications.
b. Routine Surveillance
   i. Monitor all fish populations that are housed for more than 4-6 weeks.
   ii. Sample all populations at least two times per year. A population consists of any one of the following:
      • An individual tank
      • A rack which contains several tanks which share water from the same system.
      • A water system that has a series of racks which share water and are plumbed in sequence.
   iii. Disinfect fish nets between groups of fish and if used to capture ill fish with a commercial net disinfection product or a 1.98% bleach disinfection bath.
   iv. Separately submit live diseased fish, if detected, at the time of surveillance. Consult with the PI, Attending Veterinarian, & the TAMU Diagnostic Laboratory to determine if increased surveillance efforts are needed for diseased populations.
   v. The most common signs to look for as an indicator of disease in small fish is body wasting and spinal deformity.
   vi. Fish Sampling:
      • Consult with the PI to determine which stock fish are available for sampling.
      • Healthy fish: select 2-10 older fish that are visually representative (e.g. average size and general appearance) of the entire group. Select these fish from various tanks within the room. Submit these fish as live specimens.
      • Ill fish: if ill fish are present, collect these fish and submit separately from the apparently healthy fish. Consult the Principal Investigator (PI) and/or TAMU Diagnostic Laboratory for collection and submission of diseased fish.

c. Disease event investigations
   i) Notify the Attending Veterinarian of any mortality or disease events.
   ii) Collect samples for submission to the TAMU Diagnostic Laboratory using the information given above.


d. Reporting Test Results
   i) TAMU Diagnostic Laboratory: reports to the Attending Veterinarian
   ii) AV and Research Compliance: send a hard copy of results to the PIs and managers


e. Documentation: keep historical data filed for at least three years.

6. Personnel Safety
a. Medical emergencies: call 911
b. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonoses, and injury risks.
7. Animal Related Contingencies
   a. Post contact information for emergency assistance in a conspicuous location within the animal facility.
   Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays
   b. Non-emergency veterinary questions & requests for care, call or email iacuc@tamuc.edu, or call Research Compliance 903 886 5766

8. References

History:
Version 01 - Initial approval – February 17 2016
Petra Collyer