



MAY 4 2001

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Mr. Denis Doyle
Director, Division of Assurances
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 1050
Rockville, MD 20892-7982

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Recent changes in the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) oversight, ownership and programmatic involvement of a large number of chimpanzees previously used in biomedical research resulted in a decision to place those animals and the associated animal activities under the NIH Intramural Research Program Animal Welfare Assurance (A4149-01). The proposed additions or clarifications to the components, facilities and practices described in that Assurance are stated below.

Paragraph I. We are adding an additional component, the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF), located at Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB), New Mexico, to the definition of Institution. That component occupies facilities (identified in Paragraph III.H.) leased from HAFB and totally operated by a contractor, hereinafter referred to as the APF contractor..

Paragraph III.A. Under a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Director, National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) has committed to provide necessary fiscal and personnel resources to oversee and manage the APF support contract and associated facility construction or renovation projects to maintain the Animal Care and Use (ACU) program and physical plant in compliance with applicable federal and/or state laws, regulations and applicable standards, to include the NIH Policy Manual 3040-2 and the NRC Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide). The APF will have an Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) and Animal Program Director (APD) appointed, by delegated authority, by the Director, NCRR, or designee.

Paragraph III.B. The names of the veterinarians providing care for the NIH-owned animals at the APF will be provided as soon as the full-time veterinary staff has been hired and moved on location.

Paragraph III.C. The names of the members of the APF ACUC will be provided as soon as the full-time staff has been hired and moved on location.

Paragraph III.G. The APF contractor will provide appropriate occupational safety and health services to its employees. The appropriateness of those services will be confirmed by NIH's Division of Safety.


Paragraph III.H. The total gross number of square feet in the APF animal facilities (including each satellite facility), the species of animals housed therein and the average daily inventory, by species, of animals in each facility is provided in the attached table (amendment to Attachment 8.)

Paragraph III.L. APF contractor staff will receive training from the Training Coordinator, Animal Care and Use or, per paragraph F.4.b. of PM 3040-2, via comparable training programs approved by the Director, OACU and presented by contractor personnel at the APF.

Paragraph IV. The ACU program at the APF is not currently accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC.) Beginning with the initial submission of our Animal Welfare Assurance, and as evidenced by our AAALAC file histories, it has always been the IRPs unswerving commitment to achieve and maintain AAALAC accreditation of all IRP components. As the APF is both geographically and operationally distinct from the remainder of the IRP ACU research programs, and in light of our commitment to seek AAALAC accreditation of the APF as quickly as we can bring the ACU program into an accreditable condition, per PHS Policy paragraph V. D., we hereby request a waiver from the requirement that "All of the institution's programs and facilities (including satellite facilities) for activities involving animals have been evaluated and accredited by AAALAC,..." We request that this waiver be for a period of 12 months, thus allowing the remainder of the IRP components to remain in Category 1 during that interval.

Request your review and approval of these amendments.

Please contact me or James F. Taylor, D.V.M., Director, Office of Animal Care and Use, in the event clarification or additional information is necessary regarding this amendment to our Assurance.



Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.
Deputy Director for Intramural Research

Attachment

cc:
Dr. Vaitukaitis