

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)  
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD**  
9001 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099

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*MINUTES OF MEETING*  
*Friday, 22 April 2005*  
*Cafeteria Conference Room 101*

**Members Present:**

**Scientific Concerns:** David Germano, Todd McBride, Steve Suter

**Non-Scientific Concerns:** Andrew Troup

**Community Issues:** none

**Veterinarian:** Mylon Filkins

**Safety/Risk Officer:** Kellie Garcia

**Administrative Oversight:** Ed Sasaki

**Members Absent:**

Debbie Kroeger, Chuck Simonson, Jane Granskog

**Visitors:**

Carol Raupp, Psychology, for Protocol 05-01

Meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Suter at 12:58 PM.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Chair announced the two new members, Kellie Garcia and Chuck Simonson, and introduced the attending member.

The IACUC Bi-Annual Report to the Provost was summarized by the Chair.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Filkins moved and McBride seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for the IACUC meeting of 11 June 2004. The motion was approved 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:** [none]

**NEW BUSINESS: [Protocol Review]**

- a. **Protocol 05-01** (Carol Raupp, Psychology) "Longitudinal Naturalistic Observation of a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) Feral Cat Colony"

The investigator summarized the protocol. She has managed the feral cat colony [FCC] on the CSUB campus for about 15 years. This includes regular feedings at multiple stations around campus. There is also a trap-neuter-release procedure carried out regularly. Questions followed.

- Q: What will you be observing? A: There are kit foxes, a red fox, and skunks, as well as the feral cats. [Raupp reads aloud a few minutes of behavioral notes from one early-morning feeding station session.]
- Q: Do the foxes limit their feeding to cat food rather than the cats? A: The larger species will eat kittens. In general the red fox is most dominant, then kit foxes, then the cats. Nobody messes with the skunks.
- Q: Why are you submitting this now if you have been doing this for a long time? A: I might publish some of the observations which makes it research.
- Q: Isn't feeding wild animals behavior modification? A: The protocol does not seek approval for colony management procedures.
- Q: But there wouldn't be any behavior to observe if you weren't there feeding them. A: The feeding itself isn't part of the research and will continue in any case; the protocol involves making observations. There are no feeding restrictions involved.
- Q: Just being there modifies the animals' behaviors. The fox would eat the cats if you weren't there. A: I will always be there anyway as part of the colony management.
- Q: Is the colony a recognized entity? A: Yes, the feral cat colony is managed via the CSUB Foundation. Only Raupp, herself, interacts with the animals due to safety concerns.
- Q: If we approve this protocol does the IACUC become responsible for the feral cat colony? A: This proposal does not seek that.
- Q: How does the feral cat colony perpetuate itself--it's been going for 15 years? A: There are about 13 cats now; animals enter by straying from housing areas nearby, the bridge over the canal on Kroll, drop offs.
- Q: What if you spay or neuter somebody's pet by accident? A: This is not a problem legally and it would be doing them a favor.
- Q: How would you apply the "feral" and "wild" designations to the cats involved? A: She does not use the term "wild." Some considerations involve whether they are stray companion animals and how many generations their ancestors have been living away from humans.
- Q: [A brief discussion commenced about the purview of the IACUC extending to observations in a natural setting, including the extent to which activities must affect the animal subjects to be fall within IACUC purview.]
- Q: How will you systematize your notes? A: Would really like to be able to recognize individual kit foxes to study individual fox/cat cross-species relationships. In general will code observations by species, which approach and how they interact with whom in terms of peaceful/aggressive, the duration of contact.

When there were no further questions the IACUC excused the investigator and deliberated in executive session. There was a motion to approve the protocol, with one stipulation added to the authorization letter: "The IACUC does not have jurisdiction or authority over,

nor does it sanction in any way, the care, management, or existence of the feral cat colony on campus.” Filkins moved, Germano seconded, approved 6-0.

The action was explained to the investigator upon her return.

**AREAS OF CONCERN:** [none]

**NEXT MEETING:**

Friday, 10 June, 2005 – meeting room to be announced. This meeting will definitely take place because all active protocols up for renewal will be reviewed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM. (Germano moved, McBride seconded, approved unanimously).

**INSPECTION OF THE ANIMAL FACILITY:**

There are now about 85 animals in the colony, which is approaching capacity. Veterinarian suggested obtaining figures on maximum capacity given the ventilation capability. Light levels can become a problem in crowded colonies. Sumaya noted that positions of cages are rotated on the racks regularly. It was suggested to track this systematically. The drain does not always work properly and is under investigation by people from facilities management. The limited availability of hot water continues to be a problem and is exacerbated by the number of animals now living in the colony. Sumaya noted that dead animals are removed the same day because the colony is tended every day including weekends. Dead animals are taken to Al Tanabe for feeding the raptors at FACT. Sometimes Sumaya does surgery after death to train students in procedures. The veterinarian consulted with respect to sterile procedures for the intraperitoneal injections in the modified depression study.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Steve Suter, Professor of Psychology, Secretary for the IACUC***