



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) WORKING GROUP CHARTER

PURPOSE

The Florida Aquarium (the “Aquarium”) is committed to supporting, facilitating and conducting mission-focused research which has scientific merit, rigor, defensibility and need, aides in the conservation of species and/or ecosystems, improve animal husbandry and/or welfare, adds to the scientific knowledge of the species in our care, and/or forwards guest experience and education impacts.

The purpose of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Working Group (“IACUC”) is to ensure the humane care and use of animals in all Aquarium research projects and related grant requests and/or Memorandums of Understanding (or Agreements) (“MOUs) and to ensure compliance with all related guidelines and regulations.

IACUC RESPONSIBILITIES

The Working Group is charged with reviewing, approving and providing oversight of any *in-situ* or *ex-situ* mission-focused research project in which animals will be involved in invasive procedures that may result in pain, harm, distress, or significantly and/or adversely altering of behavior as part of the research protocol (excluding veterinary or husbandry procedures. At a minimum, the Working Group will:

- assure that if the applicant’s organization has an IACUC, they have attached their formal IACUC approval of the project;
- review and provide the Research Committee a recommendation for approval ((or denial) of proposed activities that will involve animals as well as any significant changes in IACUC-approved proposals that may arise later.
- for approved projects, inspect all Florida Aquarium animal facilities and meet with researchers to review methodology and the project every six months.
- for approved projects, monitor to assure the humane care and use of animals;
- for approved projects, evaluate compliance with the AWA and other requirements; and
- for approved projects, provide the Research Committee a recommendation to suspend an activity involving animals if the activity is not being conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and as approved by the IACUC Working Group.

IACUC MEETINGS

The Working Group shall meet two (2) times per year, or more frequently as the Working Group may determine. The Research Committee Chair will oversee all regular sessions of the IACUC and will coordinate with the Vice Chair to set the agendas and record meeting minutes.

IACUC MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with the AWA, the Working Group shall be comprised of:

- the Research Committee Chair;

- the Research Committee Vice Chair;
- the veterinarian responsible for providing care to the animals used in research;
- an external member not affiliated with the Aquarium in any way other than performing IACUC duties; and
- additional Aquarium staff as appropriate.

IACUC RESOURCES AND ADVISORS

The Working Group shall have the authority, at the expense of the Aquarium, to retain outside consultants, legal counsel or other independent third-party experts as it shall deem necessary to carry out its duties, with management approval.

STAFF SUPPORT

The Senior Vice President of Conservation shall serve as the primary staff resource for this Working Group. Assistance as required will also be provided by members of the staff.