



Reporting Unexpected Adverse Events



It is all of our responsibility to report adverse events. This ensures continuity of animal care at IU.

WHAT IS AN ADVERSE EVENT (AE)?

An adverse event is an *unexpected incident* that leads to a significant injury or illness, unrelieved pain or distress, or the death of an animal.

Any adverse event MUST be reported to the Animal Research Protections Office (ARPO) at iuacuc@iu.edu

WHY REPORT?

Adverse events can be a one-time occurrence or indicative of broader programmatic concerns. Reporting these events safeguards animal welfare and potential research outcomes, and contributes to our collective goal of optimizing animal care and use at Indiana University.

WHAT IS AN EXPECTED ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES?

Expected adverse consequences are outcomes (clinical, physiological, and/or behavioral signs of pain or distress) of individual procedures and/or research models (e.g., genetic modifications) that are expected to cause more than momentary pain or distress but are not at the threshold for euthanasia.

The action(s) taken when adverse consequences are reached can vary; animals may require intervention, medical treatment, euthanasia, and/or removal from the study.

Expected adverse consequences must be described in the protocol, but do **NOT** need to be reported to the ARPO.



Regardless of the situation, ***always contact veterinary staff when clinical issues impacting animal health arise.***

Emergency Contact Information

Animal health concerns/clinical emergencies: 812-855-2356

Facility concerns/emergencies: 812-855-1950.

EXAMPLES OF ADVERSE EVENTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- A cohort of animals dies during an experiment due to equipment;
- An animal's catheter is dislodged and the animal, or animals, is injured or dies;
- A cohort of animals experiences unexpected and/or higher than expected morbidity or mortality following a procedure;
- An animal dies or requires treatment or euthanasia due to human error (e.g., a blood vessel or organ is inadvertently damaged during a procedure, or the incorrect amount of substance is administered resulting in harm).

Questions?

Contact the Animal Research Protections Office about reporting adverse events at iuacuc@iu.edu.



Animal Research Protections Office
iuacuc@iu.edu