Given the rapidly evolving circumstances regarding COVID-19 and the College of Charleston’s continued commitment to the health and safety of faculty, staff, students, our animal population, and the greater community, the Office of Research and Grants Administration, with authority from the Provost, has issued the following revised standards related to research involving animals. Please be aware that further restrictions may be implemented based on recommendations from State or Federal authorities.

IACUC Review Operations

CofC’s IACUC is fully functional online and will continue accepting new application PDFs submitted to compliance@cofc.edu. IACUC review and approval of new applications, continuing reviews, and modifications can continue remotely without interruption. Full committee meetings will be conducted via tele/videoconference as needed.

The approval of new protocols will continue, but IACUC approval does not supersede College of Charleston or higher authorities' orders to maintain social distancing. Protocols that require use of CofC facilities for animal housing or field protocols that do not allow for social distancing--maintaining 6 feet separation between yourself or others and no more than 10 people congregated--will not be allowed to start until further notice from the College.

Ongoing Animal Research

Due to limited staffing and resources, no procurement of new animals is permitted at this time.

Access to CofC facilities for essential purposes will be determined by your department Chair/Dean, not by the IACUC.

If you are permitted to access campus to care for animals and begin to feel unwell, you must contact our IACUP director at milikeng@cofc.edu immediately to coordinate continued care for those animals. The IACUC has approved the transfer of care to the IACUP Director. Animal care plans must be provided to the IACUP director at the time of the request to transfer care.

Ongoing field research may continue uninterrupted if the guidance for social distancing can be followed.

Continuing Reviews and Final Reports

Federal regulations do not allow for the extension of continuing reviews and final reports. Continuing reviews are still required to submitted at least two weeks prior to the one-year anniversary of the last review. No IACUC protocol can extend past 3 years, and final reports must be submitted on time. If the research must continue past the original 3-year time frame due to COVID-19 interruptions, a new protocol must be submitted to the IACUC for review.

Continuing reviews that are approved may also be dependent upon resumption of normal College activities.

Please contact compliance@cofc.edu if you have any additional questions.