II. Description

A. Institutional Policies and Responsibilities

1. Monitoring the Care and Use of Animals

a. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee(s) (IACUC)

An IACUC is not common in Switzerland. Regulatory basis is the Swiss Animal Protection act, last revised March 22nd, 1991. The inspection of the facilities, check and approval of applications are done by the official veterinarian of the county (Kanton). He has at his side a committee of 10 members, experts of the involved institutions like pharmaceutical industries, universities and also animal welfare groups. This animal experimentation committee scrutinizes every experiment license application. Such a license is necessary for each toxicological experiment and is valid for a maximum of 3 years. Responsibility lies with the study director. Besides this, members of the committee accompany the veterinarian at his site visits, which he conducts approximately 1 to 6 times a year. Additionally most institutes (inclusive of RCC) appoint an animal welfare advisor. He functions as an in-house control and maintains liaison with the authorities.

1) Who appoints Committee/who is Institutional Official

N/A

2) Composition/Frequency of Meetings/Responsibilities of the Committee

N/A

3) Frequency of Committee Review

N/A

4) USDA Inspection Report Responses

N/A

5) Other Monitoring Procedures

N/A

b. Animal Care and Use Protocol Review and Approval

Interim Reports about use and numbers of animals have to be prepared annually.

c. Physical Restraint

Not done