



1965–2025

Preparing for a Site Visit—For the Researcher

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Director--USA



Celebrating sixty years!

Outline

AAALAC Overview

Value of AAALAC Accreditation

Accreditation Process

Key Components



Myth Vs. Fact

Myth: AAALAC International is a regulatory agency.

Fact: AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization.



Because we care

Consideration. Communication. Compassion.

Thank you for all you do every day to create a "Culture of Care"—an environment that supports animal and human well-being in science.

Participation in AAALAC International accreditation champions a Culture of Care—it encourages programs to continuously improve and evolve, fostering excellence in animal welfare and research. Learn more at aaalac.org

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Assessment. Accreditation. Education.



Mission:

- AAALAC International improves the welfare of animals in science and education through the accreditation of organizations meeting high standards of humane and responsible animal care and use

Vision

- A world where excellence in animal welfare and science converge.



The Accreditation Program

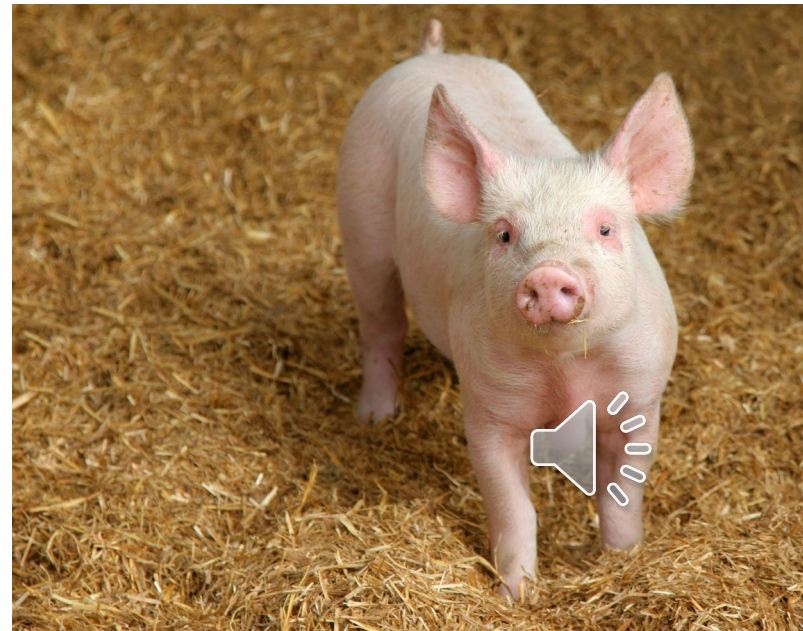
- ✓ completely confidential
- ✓ performance-based
- ✓ a peer-review process



Who does AAALAC Accredited?

Programs using any animal
species in science and
education

Includes traditional
laboratory animals,
farm animals, wildlife,
and aquatic animals



Value of Accreditation

“Attainment of accreditation demonstrates that an institution's animal care and use program maintains a standard of excellence beyond the minimums required by law.

Accreditation also demonstrates an institution's accountability and its efforts to promote sound ethical practices.”



Accreditation Demonstrates...

Commitment to animal care and welfare

Quality

Scientific validity

Accountability



Benefits of AAALAC Accreditation

Eliminates Variables

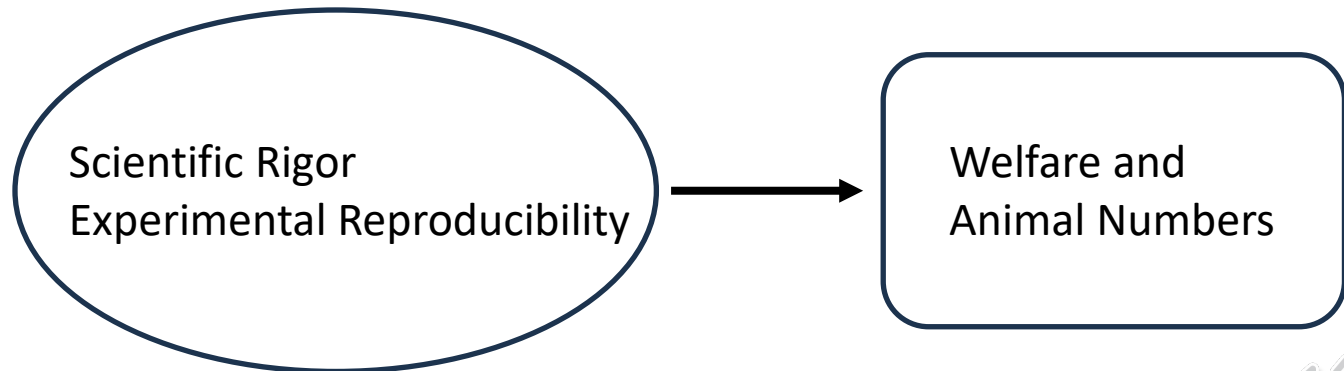
Encourages Performance-based Oversight

Enhances Funding Opportunities



Eliminates Variables

Scientific Reproducibility



Performance-based Oversight

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Engineering Standards



Performance Standards



Enhanced Funding Opportunities

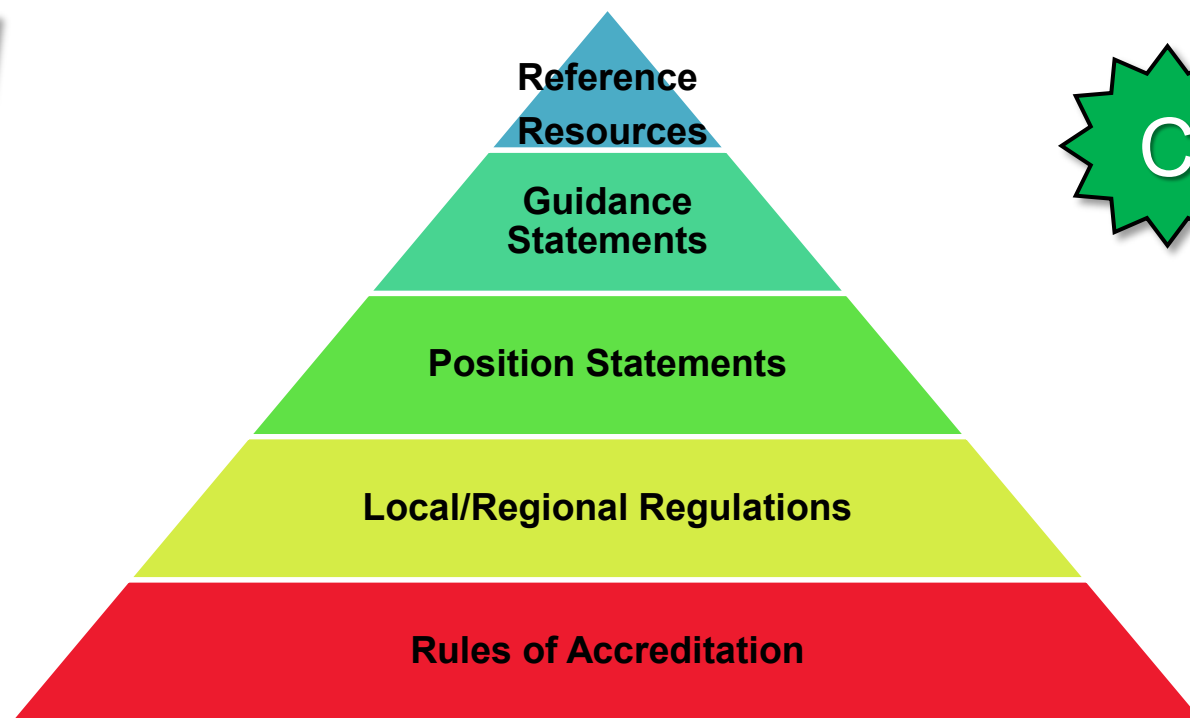
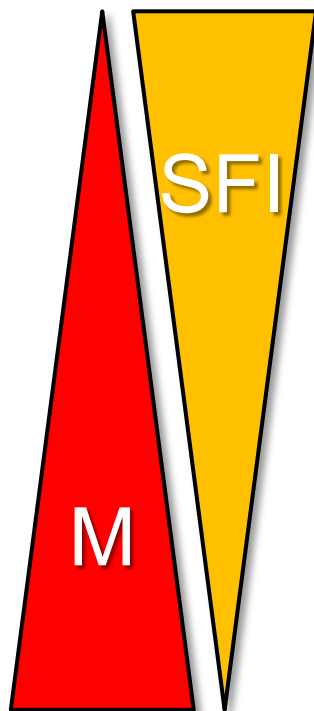


Myth Vs. Fact

Myth: AAALAC International establishes policies and regulations.

Fact: AAALAC International evaluates animal care programs based on the recommendations the Three Primary Standards, Position Statements, Guidance Statements, Reference Resources, and applicable regional regulations.





AAALAC's Standards



Position and Guidance Statements

Position Statements

Supplemental requirements and recommendations on selected topics

Clarify AAALAC expectations and support consistent interpretation

Used in accreditation to inform findings and, in some cases, commendations

Primary Purpose / Typical Outcome: Promote consistent application of expectations; may contribute to Mandatory Findings or recognition of exemplary practices

Guidance Statements

Clarification where questions commonly arise

Clarify expectations when standards are not explicit

Used in accreditation to inform findings and more commonly support Suggestions for Improvement

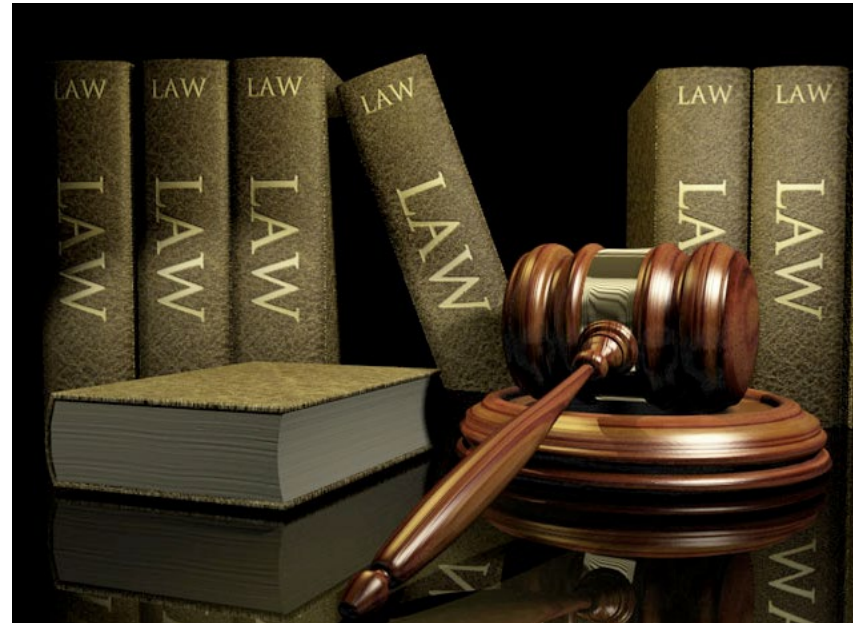
Primary Purpose / Typical Outcome: Provide direction and clarification; typically support program enhancement and continuous improvement

How to Determine Which Standards to Follow



Engineering Standards

- Defined, objective, measurable
- Often included in legislation as requirements
- Example: minimum cage dimensions; environmental conditions, composition IACUC/OB...



What Are Performance-Based Standards?

- ❖ Define outcomes, not rigid methods
- ❖ Focus on achieving thriving animals and strong programs
- ❖ Allows institutional flexibility



Accreditation Process



Self Evaluation

Development of Program
Description



Site Visit

Peer Review Assessment



Council Deliberations

Council Determines
Accreditation Status



Site Visit Process

Entrance Briefing

Program Review

Facility Walk-through

IACUC/OB Meeting

Document Review

Executive Session

Exit Briefing



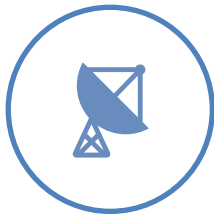
Facility Walk-through



Health of animals



Research staff
engagement



Sanitation/Repair of
facilities/satellites



Emergency Contacts
& veterinary support



Collaborations



Laboratory visits



Document Review

Disaster Plan

Adverse Event Reporting Plan

Training Records

Regulatory Agency Inspection Reports

Assurances

IACUC/OB meeting minutes/ semiannual
reports

Selected Animal Use Protocols

Selected Standing Operating Procedures
(SOPs)



Key Program Components

Administration

Occupational
Health and
Safety

Veterinary Care

IACUC/Oversight
Body

Physical
Plant/HVAC

Animal
Environments



The site visit should be a positive experience and an opportunity to demonstrate that you are remaining diligent, staying current with regulatory requirements and ever evolving industry standards, while maintaining a high level of excellence.



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High Standards of Humane and Responsible Animal Care

For more
information...

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www.aaalac.org



A world where excellence in
animal welfare and science
converge.





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Thank you!

aaalac.org | accredit@aaalac.org

