



1965-2025

Preparing for a Site Visit—For the Facility Staff

Jacob R. Werner, VMD

Director--USA



Celebrating sixty years!

Outline

AAALAC Overview

Accreditation Process

Always AAALAC Ready



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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

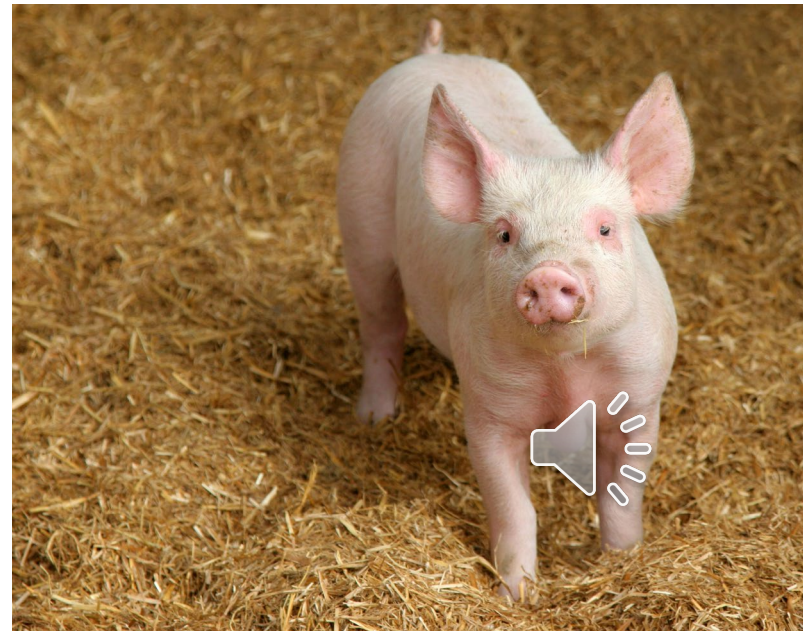
- A world where excellence in animal welfare and science converge.



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

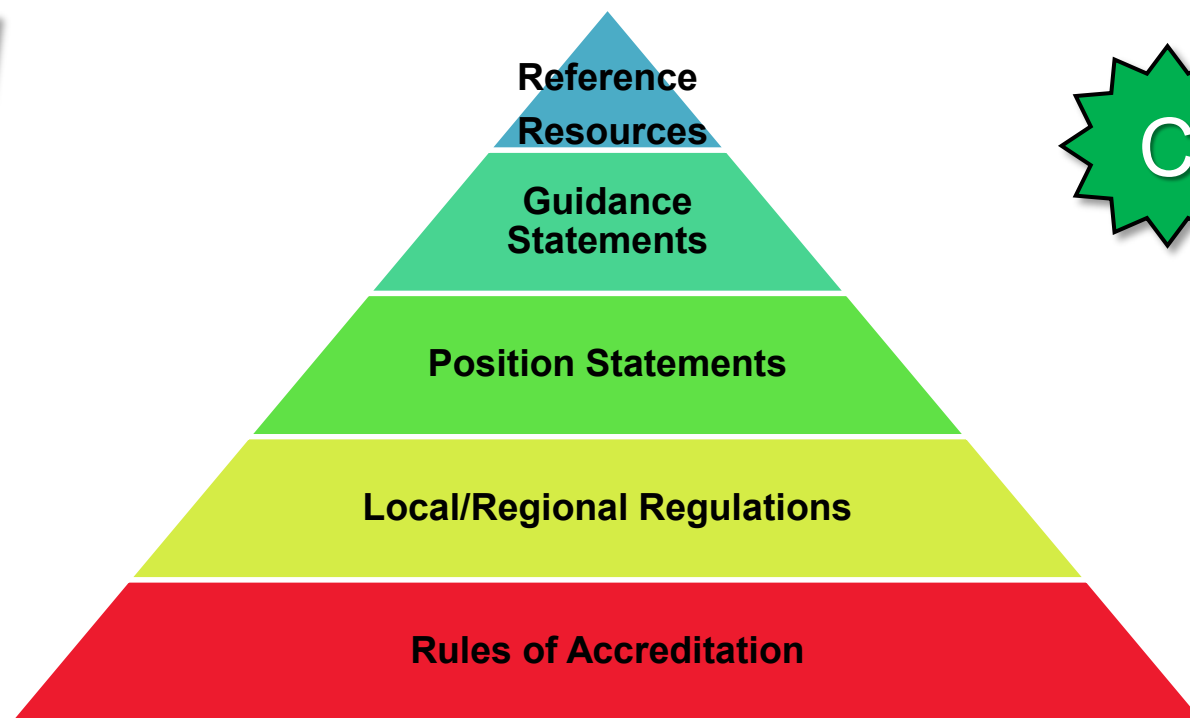
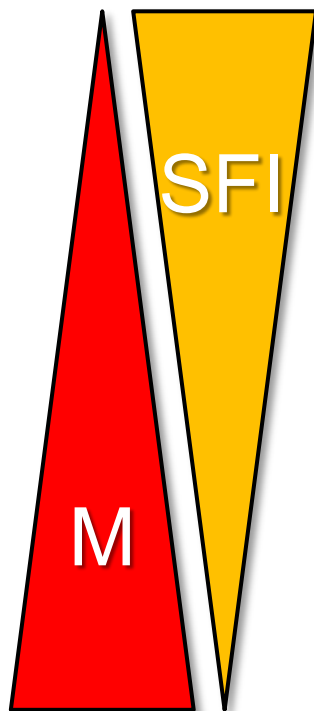
Accountability



The Accreditation Program

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





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

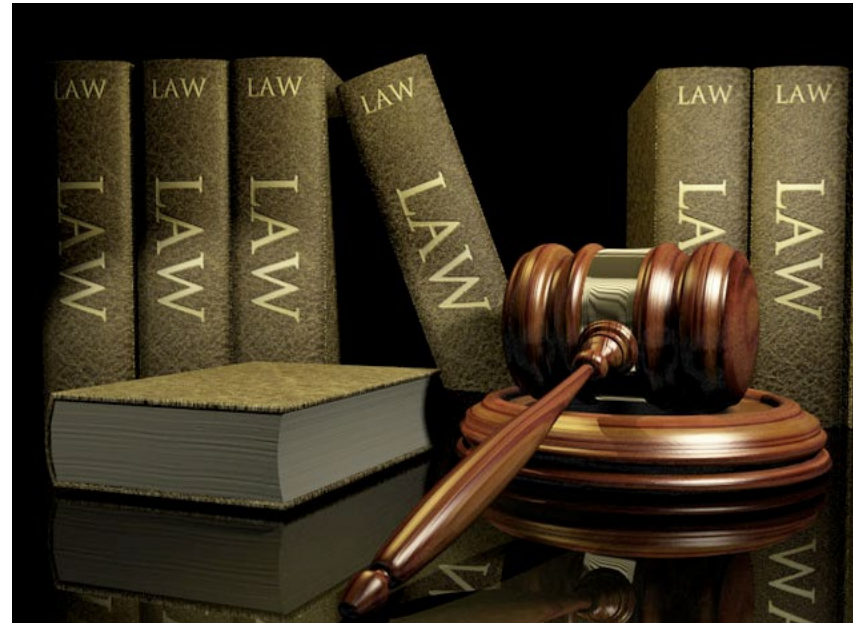


How to Determine Which Standards to Follow



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



Performance-based Oversight

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Engineering Standards



Performance Standards



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

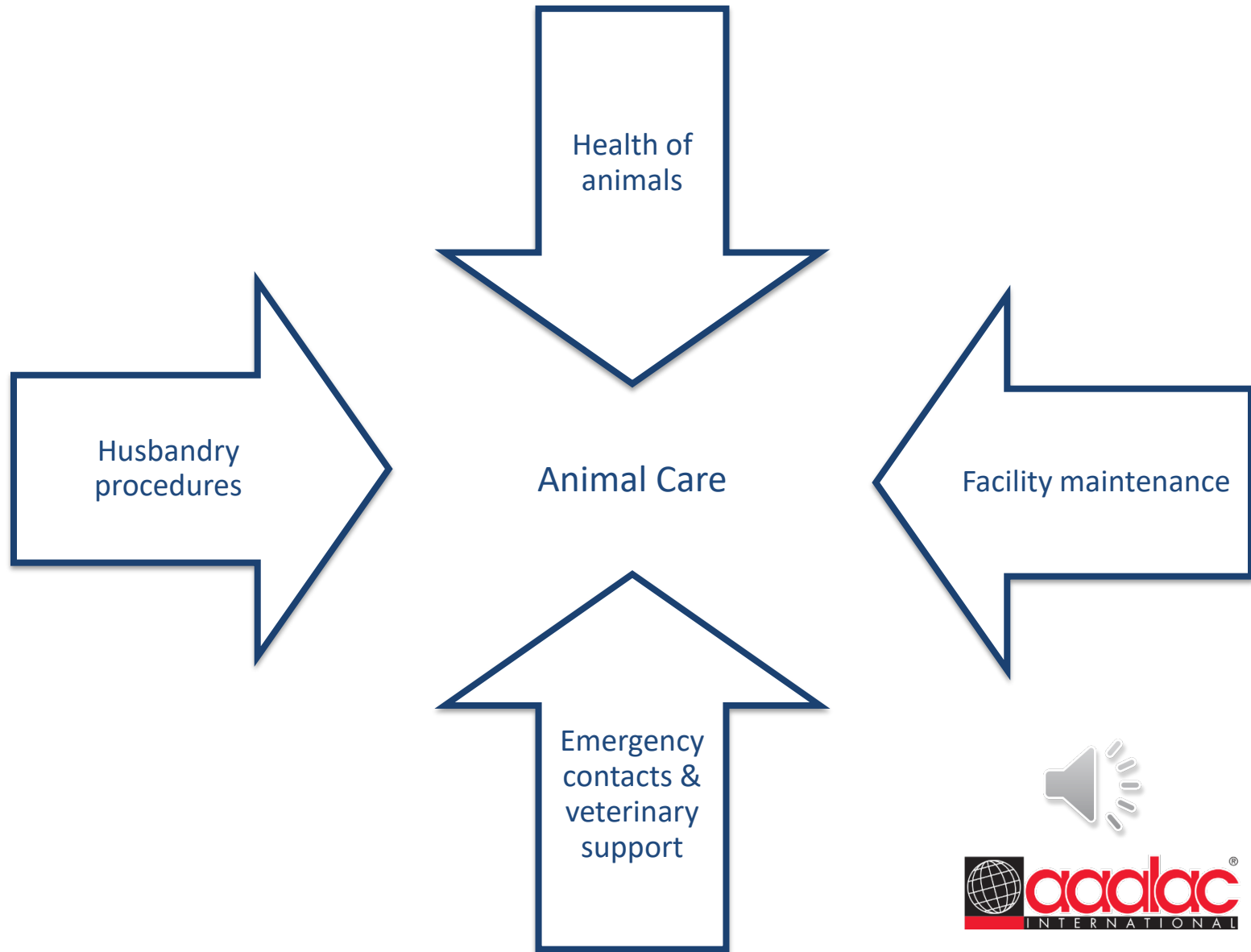
Document Review

Executive Session

Exit Briefing



Facility Walk-through



Preparing the Staff

Staff should be 'familiar' with the accreditation process,

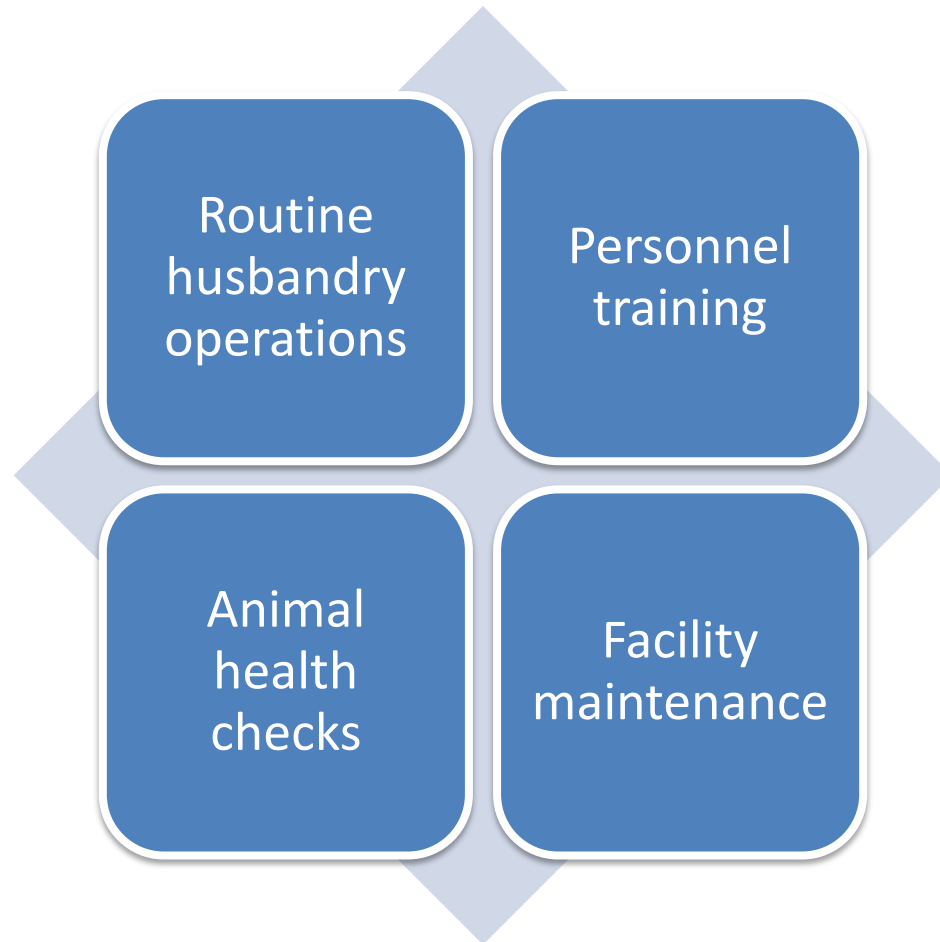
Be aware of daily operations

Site visitors may ask staff questions:

- Regarding activity and engagement
- Access to training and continuing education opportunities
- To assess the program's culture of care



Always AAALAC Ready



Animal Environments

Social housing and environmental enrichment for all species

Sanitation effectiveness monitoring

Clean and uncluttered

Condition of caging

Adequate cage sizes

Exemptions documented and approved by IACUC/OB



Animal Environments

SOPs in place
and followed

Sanitation
schedules

Breeding colony
management

Checklists
completed and
current



Common Questions

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Are you enrolled in the Occupational Health and Safety Program?



Are you aware of safety features for walk-in rack washers and bulk autoclaves?



What type of PPE is required?



How are sick animals identified and reported?



Be Proud!

Demonstrate

Answer

Acknowledge

Share



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...

AAALAC International

5205 Chairman's Ct., Suite 300

Frederick, MD 21703

Email: accredit@aaalac.org

www.aaalac.org



A world where excellence in
animal welfare and science
converge.





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Thank you!

aaalac.org | accredit@aaalac.org

