The AAALAC Site Visit: Top 10 AAALAC Site Visitor Questions
10: Tell me about your research?

This is your time to shine. You are the expert at what you do, so take the time to tell them.
9: Have you read the IACUC approved protocol?

Be sure that all personnel that work under an approved IACUC protocol understand what is in it. They don’t need to know the details of all the procedures, etc, but should understand the overall objective and how their procedures tie into the overall goals.

They should know the mechanism to change procedures in the protocol, and that any changes need to be approved by the IACUC prior to implementation.
8: How do you prepare personnel and the animals for surgery?

For USDA covered species, aseptic technique in a dedicated surgical facility is required.

For mouse and rat surgeries, the IAUC has provided guidelines. You should review these and understand the minimum expectations.

- Surgeon prep- hand wash, sterile gloves, mask
- Animals- shave, aseptic prep, sterilized instruments, mechanism for inter-patient sterilization

https://vpr.colostate.edu/RICRO/iacuc/iacuc-policies-and-guidelines/
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-7fFcWeihxZkJQN3dEbDV2QWM/view
7: Describe the post-procedure care?

The frequency of post-procedure and post-op care is described in the IACUC approved protocol. The frequency of monitoring, method of monitoring, and dose, route and frequency of medications should be known AND documented that they have been given.

Cage card forms are available for post-op observations and to record daily observations for infectious disease studies. They can be found on the LAR website http://vpr.colostate.edu/lar under the “Resources” tab.
6: What is the endpoint of the study and how are animals euthanized?

All personnel should know the expected end point of the study.

They should also know the humane endpoints of the study outlined in the protocol. The IACUC has established guidelines for euthanasia based on humane criteria.

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6: What is the endpoint of the study and how are animals euthanized?

Animals must be euthanized as outlined in the approved protocol.

- CO2 euthanasia uses a slow fill method replacing the chamber with 10-30% of CO2/min. Do NOT use precharged chambers.
- When euthanizing with chemicals, dilute them as needed immediately prior to use and discard unused portions. Do NOT store diluted euthanasia, anesthetics and analgesics as they lose efficacy.
- When mixing MS-222 for aquatics, it must be done in a fume hood. It is a known respiratory irritant.
5: What type of training have you received?

Personnel should know the training requirements for working with animals AND it MUST be documented.

- IACUC 101
- Animal handling and restraint
- Biomethods such as injection, gavage, blood collection
- Procedure specific training such as aseptic technique for surgery, surgical procedures
- Building orientation and procedures
- Occupational Health
- Emergency plans
- Facility and laboratory SOPs
4: Are you enrolled in the occupational health program?

If you work with animals and are on an IACUC approved protocol you MUST be enrolled in the Occupational health program. The coordinator is Joni Triantis Van Sickle in EHS.

This includes:
• Annual risk assessment
• Annual health evaluation
• Respiratory protection program
• Vaccinations and preventative medicine (TB test)

The Occupational Health provider is University of Colorado Health of Northern Colorado (fka PVH)

http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WOHSP/Home.aspx
3: What PPE do you use and why?

Personnel should understand why PPE is used and when.

- In the rodent facilities it provides both allergen protection and protects the animals from contaminants. This includes lab coats, gloves, use of change stations, and N95 as needed.

- In containment facilities it provides personnel protection and includes dedicated clothing and N95/PAPR.

- Those working with large animals minimize contaminants using coveralls.

All PPE MUST be laundered/processed on site.
2: What happens when you find an sick animal?

• The veterinary staff is contacted when animals are found ill.
  - For LAR managed facilities the veterinary staff can be contacted by email at LAR_vets@mail.colostate.edu or at 970-566-3414.
  - Non-LAR managed facilities usually have a veterinarian designated to provided clinical care. It should be clear how personnel contact them. They can also use the LAR veterinary staff.

• Personnel should know that the Attending Veterinarian (AV) for the CSU Animal Care and Use Program is Lon Kendall, DVM, PhD. The AV MUST be contacted for any unexpected events that occur compromising animal welfare.

• To help facilitate the need for frequent communication, the veterinary staff make regular rounds.

• The mechanism for emergency, weekend and holiday care must be clearly posted. It’s best to include the LAR veterinary staff on these postings since there is always a veterinarian on call and available.
1: Show me your records!

Have the following records prepared ahead of time, easily accessible, and readily available in hard copy format:

- Personnel training records
- Occupational health information
- Veterinary medical records
- Veterinary contact information
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Mechanisms for reporting concerns
- Emergency plans

A binder with the current personnel records, SOPS, medical records, etc. would make them easily accessible. Don’t rely on showing site visitors electronic records.