

# WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2024

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## CENTRE INFORMATION

<b>*Title of WOAHCollaborating Centre</b>	Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science
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<b>*Name Director of Institute (Responsible Official):</b>	Kavita Berger and Robin Schoen
<b>*Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):</b>	Susana Rodriguez, Ph.D., Program Officer
<b>*Name of the writer:</b>	Susana Rodriguez

## TOR 1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHC

Category	Title of activity	Scope
		BAHSCR staff collaborated with the Board



<p>Disease control (true)</p>	<p>Review of Transmission and Geographic Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in U.S. Cervid Populations</p>	<p>on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR) at the NASEM to review the state of knowledge about the modes of transmission and means of geographic spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) among free-ranging and captive populations in the United States. Open sessions of the committee’s information gathering meetings are available for viewing on the project website. A prepublication copy of the report was published in December 2024 and is freely available to download.</p>
<p>Training, capacity building (true)</p>	<p>“Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and use of Animals” -A Workshop</p>	<p>The workshop was held on December 19-20, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to improve scientific communications with the public on the care and use of animals in research. The workshop held sessions on the topics: concerns of the media; concerns of non-scientists, inadequately communicated topics, making communication effective, communicating about NAMS, considerations along the spectrum of openness, concerns of Institutional Leadership, communicating about ethics, communicating on social media, the U.S. Animal Research Openness Initiative (USARO). The workshop culminated with a panel discussion and wrap up. The agenda, meeting book, workshop resources, and video recordings of the workshop are available on the event page. The workshop proceedings were published on the National Academies Press website on June 25, 2024 and is freely available to download.</p>
<p>Wildlife (true)</p>	<p>Standing Committee on the Care and Use of Animals in Research</p>	<p>The standing committee provides a venue for the exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing among federal government agencies, the private sector, academic communities, and other stakeholders engaged in animal research, animal studies and humane animal use by scientists in a variety of topical areas and settings. Three wildlife experts are appointed to the standing committee. The standing committee held 5 listening</p>



		<p>sessions dedicated to the discussion on the unique animal welfare challenges of conducting wildlife, non-model species, and biodiversity research and educational activities in natural and/or captive settings. The five sessions had 82 invited participants and focused on the topics: mammals, amphibians and reptiles, wild fish, zebrafish, and cephalopods.</p>
<p>Animal welfare (true)</p>	<p>Future Topical Updates to the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" A workshop</p>	<p>A workshop was convened on April 23-24, 2024 to explore topics of interest related to potential, future updates to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide, 8th edition, NRC 2011). The workshop built upon listening sessions hosted by the Standing Committee for the Care and Use of Animals in Research. The listening sessions explored various themes to inform future updates or revisions to the Guide. The workshop also served as an event to share information and gather knowledge on topics including, but not limited to: role of regulatory agency policies and their impact on the Guide; possible new dissemination formats and content management of the Guide; use of terminology in the Guide; topics related to institutional animal care and use committees (IACUCs); topics related to housing, international housing regulations, and their impacts on animal behaviour and welfare; relevant guidelines that could be included in the Guide to support recommendations; address other topics of potential relevance to future Guide updates raised by the planning committee or workshop participants. The workshop consisted of a high-level summary introduction of the listening sessions followed by eight sessions informed by focus areas identified in the listening sessions. The workshop featured 38 speaker presentations and 2 summary sessions. The workshop agenda, meeting book, and video recordings of the entire workshop are available at the event page. The workshop proceedings-in-brief were published in October 2024 and are freely available to download.</p>

Training, capacity building (true)	Roundtable on Science Welfare of Animals Involved in Research	The Roundtable updated its name from the "Roundtable on Science and Welfare in Laboratory Animal Use" to "Roundtable on Science Welfare of Animals Involved in Research." The members updated their organizational structure and statement of task to reflect current priorities. Both have been updated on the Roundtable's web page.
Training, capacity building (true)	Board on Animal Health Sciences, Conservation, and Research (BAHSCR)	The Board held a Spring meeting on May 1-2, 2024. The hybrid meeting focused on speaker presentations focused on scientific and clinical advances in wildlife and companion animal health. The meeting agenda and presentations are posted to the event page.
Wildlife (true)	BAHSCR Board Spring Meeting 2024	The BAHSCR Board held its Spring meeting on May 1-2, 2024. The meeting included speaker presentations on "Protecting the Health of Wild Animals." The meeting agenda and video recordings are available on the event page.
Animal Welfare (true)	"Contingency Planning and Training of Personnel Rule (APHIS-2020-0101), One Year of Implementation - A Workshop"	The workshop was convened to understand the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from implementation of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Contingency Rule. The Contingency Planning Rule (§ 2.134 and § 2.38(l)), can be summarized as the act of providing for the humane care of animals in the event of an emergency or disaster (one which could reasonably be anticipated and expected to be detrimental to good health and well-being). Global free on-line web-casted dissemination of workshop presentations are available at the project website and the workshop proceedings in brief are freely available for download.

## TOR 3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable Area
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<p>Standing Committee on the Care and Use of Animals in Research</p>	<p>The Standing Committee was appointed and convened throughout 2021 for the exchange of ideas and for knowledge sharing among federal government agencies, the private sector, academic communities, and other stakeholders engaged in the care, use, science and welfare of animals in research, training programs, experimentation, biological testing or for other related purposes or other special categories involving animals. The committee will be used to inform any future updates or additions to The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide) and related products that will be generated by separate, ad hoc committees associated with this project. Since 1963 the Guide has been the single document used globally to facilitate harmonization of international standards and guidelines. We are implementing a new five phase process for revisions to the Guide. Phase 1 includes the new standing committee holding listening sessions, so stakeholder communities are given the opportunity to contribute. Standing committee activities have a very broad reach, well beyond laboratory animals, to include wildlife, agricultural animals, non-model species, service animals, companion animals and other animals used in natural and captive research, field, exhibition settings.</p>	<p>Laboratory Expertise Training and Education Health Management Wildlife Health and Biodiversity</p>
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3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs\* relevant for WOA?H?

No

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA?H Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same speciality, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOA?H CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
		<p>África América</p>	<p>International cooperation in laboratory animal science. Our aims are to promote and coordinate the development of laboratory animal science throughout the world, to promote international</p>

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International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)	Virtual	Asia y el Pacífico Europa Oriente Medio	collaboration and quality monitoring and definition of laboratory animals, to collect and disseminate information and to promote the humane use of animals in research through recognition of ethical principles and scientific responsibilities.
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## TOR 4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHA Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

No

## TOR 6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAHA?

No

## TOR 7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

No

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHA, to personnel from WOAHA Members?

No

## TOR 8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOAHA?

No

## TOR 9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHA that may be useful to Members of WOAHA

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

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• *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. Effective Communication with the General Public About Scientific*

*Research That Requires the Care and Use of Animals: Proceedings of a Workshop*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27737>

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. *Future Topical Updates to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27936>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. *State of Knowledge Regarding Transmission, Spread, and Management of Chronic Wasting Disease in U.S. Captive and Free-Ranging Cervid Populations*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27449>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. *Contingency Planning and Training of Personnel Rule: One Year of Implementation: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27738>

b) International conferences:

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NA

c) National conferences:

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- California Biomedical Research Association (CBRA) Annual Meeting, May 15, 2024, "Updates to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," presentation by Susana Rodriguez.
  - Panel discussion at the 75th national meeting for the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) in Nashville, Tennessee on November 6, 2024, on the "Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and use of Animals- Take home Messages from a Workshop." The panelists were Alice Huang, Paula Clifford, Eva Maciejewski, and Nicole Navratil. The session was moderated by Nia Johnson.
  - PRIM&R Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington on November 19, 2024, session titled, "What happened to ILAR and what is BAHSCR?", with speakers, Sally Thompson-Iritani, Joseph T. Newsome, Nia D. Johnson, and Susana Rodriguez.

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

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- The Roundtable on Science and Welfare of Animals Involved in Research hosted a webinar on March 14, 2024, on "Setting the Stage for a Year of Communication: Updates from the Board on Animal Health Sciences, Conservation and Research Roundtable." The webinar featured two speakers: Sally Thompson-Iritani, DVM/PhD, University of Washington, and Joseph T. Newsome, DVM, University of Pittsburgh. The webinar provided an overview of BAHSCR and provided updates on the activities of the Roundtable, the Standing Committee for the Care and Use of Animals in Research, and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NRC 2011). A recording of the webinar is available on the event page.

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

- "Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and use of Animals" A Workshop The workshop planning committee developed a pocket reference and workshop resources for attendees and practitioners.
- "Contingency Planning and Training of Personnel Rule (APHIS-2020-0101), One Year of Implementation" - A Workshop BAHSCR staff facilitated the workshop planning committee's development and fielding of a questionnaire to the regulated community on the experience with the contingency rule. The results of the questionnaire was shared during the workshop.



12. Additional comments regarding your report: