

ANNUAL REPORT

Animal Care and Use

**University of North Alabama
Florence, Alabama**

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Committee Chair

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Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Lauren Killen
Chair, Shared Governance Executive Committee

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

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2025-2026

I. Executive Summary

The members of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for the 20242025 academic year were as follows:

Dr. Victoria Casson (Faculty at large, 2026) – Chair

Dr. Brandon Fisher (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, non-voting)

Dr. Emily Kasl (Faculty w/experience in animal research, 2025) – Vice Dr.

Jessica Stovall (Faculty at large, 2027)

Dr. Hunter Waldman (Faculty in non-scientific area, 2026)

No change in the charge of the committee is recommended at this time.

II. The Committee's Charge (from the Shared Governance Document)

1. To review compliance with and administer the Public Health Service Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
2. To examine the Public Health Service Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals annually for policy changes
3. To propose changes in university practices relating to laboratory animals
4. To oversee and enforce the University Animal Welfare Policy
5. To handle proposals the committee may make affecting university policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"
6. To submit a final written report electronically by the first day of the fall semester to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost with a copy sent to the Chair of the SGEC

III. The Committee met on the following dates:

Business was conducted either through email or virtually (Microsoft Teams) when voting was necessary. On 9/15/25 an email vote was completed on reviewing and adopting changes to Protocol Amendments. On 10/9/25: the committee met virtually to review and approve an amendment for animal research (Million). On 4/28/26: the committee met virtually to review and approve a new application for animal research (Ray)

IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?

Charge 4:

The committee met and approved one amendment to an approved research: Dr. Kara Million's 3-year project "Parasites and Male-Male Competition in Darters" will explore questions related to 1) the diversity of monogenean gill parasites of local darters and 2) the potential effects that parasites and intraspecific competition may have on these fish. Darters and their parasites are a relatively understudied system and the location of UNA in a diversity hotspot for these fish may provide new insight into their biology and ecology. The committee met to approve the research of Dr. Jeffrey Ray, Field studies of fishes in streams of Alabama and Tennessee (fishes regularly retained). BI 453/553 Southeastern Fishes. BI 423/523 Aquatic Ecology, BI 341 Natural History of Vertebrates (fishes not regularly retained).

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations?

The IACUC has no formal recommendations at this time.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

Elect a new vice chair for IACUC for the 2025-2026 Academic Year; Dr. Emily Kasl served as vice chair and is scheduled to serve as chair. Review research proposals that are submitted. Inspect facilities of those projects that have been approved by the IACUC using form C.

B. In future years?

Continue to reassess UNA IACUC policy to confirm compliance with any Federal changes.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

The IACUC has no recommendations at this time.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

The IACUC has no recommendations at this time.

VIII. Comments

none