



Institutional Program for Animal Care and Use

Major Topics

[Roles and Responsibilities](#)

I. Introduction

The University affirms that the prudent use of animals for research, instruction, and biological testing has advanced scientific and medical knowledge, alleviated pain and suffering, and improved the health of both animals and humans. Therefore, the University supports and protects the officially sanctioned use of animals in carrying out its missions as a public, land-grant research university. The University acknowledges and accepts its legal and ethical responsibility for animals under its care, and is committed to caring for and using animals in ways that are scientifically, medically and humanely appropriate.

The University's program for animal care and use (the Program) encompasses all physical, procedural, medical, and human resources necessary for an integrated and effective program that supports the institutional missions.

II. Application

This administrative regulation applies to all research, teaching, and testing activities involving vertebrate animals (animal activities) conducted at University facilities or under University sponsorship, regardless of the species or source of funding. All members of the university community who participate in animal activities are required to fulfill their individual and collective responsibilities embodied in this administrative regulation as a condition for retaining the privilege to work with animals at the University.

III. Policy

- A. The University shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and with the regulations and standards for implementing the Act promulgated at 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1, 2 and 3 (Animal Welfare Act Regulations or AWAR). The University shall follow applicable Animal Care Policies established by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- B. The University shall comply with the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy), which incorporates the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training (the Principles).

- C. The University has established and shall maintain a program for animal activities in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide) of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council.
- D. The University shall adhere to provisions of the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (Ag Guide) published by the Federation of Animal Science Societies.
- E. An animal use protocol must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to initiating any animal activity. For sponsored projects involving animal activities, the animal use protocol shall be approved before an account will be established.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Institutional Official (IO)

- 1. The Vice President for Research is designated as the IO, with full authority and responsibility to represent the University on all matters related to animal activities and to legally commit the University to comply with all applicable animal welfare laws, regulations and policies.
- 2. The IO shall have full authority to promulgate, implement, and enforce policies across the University to ensure compliance with this administrative regulation.

B. Attending Veterinarian

- 1. The Attending Veterinarian shall hold a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or equivalent degree from an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine, be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in at least one state, and be either certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) or have training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine. The Attending Veterinarian reports directly to the Institutional Official and is a permanent voting member of the IACUC.
- 2. The Attending Veterinarian shall have full and direct authority to develop and implement an effective program of veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of the Program. This includes the authority to direct or provide for appropriate medical care, including euthanasia, as necessary and consistent with established standards of veterinary medical practice.
- 3. The Attending Veterinarian may intercede at any time in an animal activity, which in his or her judgment jeopardizes animal welfare or compliance with federal laws and regulations or University policy. This includes the authority to suspend an ongoing animal activity, pending a review by the IACUC acting in full committee.

C. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

1. Membership

- (a) The IACUC shall consist of at least five (5) members who are appointed by the IO. The members shall be qualified through expertise and experience to provide oversight for the University's animal care and use program, facilities, and procedures. As a minimum the IACUC shall be comprised of:
 - i. the Chair, who shall be a practicing scientist and who has significant experience in animal research, and has the responsibility for overseeing the coordination and implementation of effective, efficient systems for animal use protocol review, Program review, and facility

inspections;

- ii. the Attending Veterinarian;
- iii. a practicing scientist experienced in animal research;
- iv. a nonscientific member, whose primary concerns are with nonscientific areas of the Program; and
- v. a member who shall not be affiliated with the University in any way other than as a member of the IACUC, and who shall not have an immediate family member* who is affiliated** with the University. This person represents the general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals.

* "Family member" means parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, brothers- and sisters-in-law, mothers- and fathers-in-law, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews, sons- and daughters-in-law, and step-relatives in the same relationships.

** "Affiliated" means any University employment, including part-time and temporary, board membership, currently enrolled students, contractors/vendors who do business with the university, and individuals holding key positions in University-affiliated associations (e.g. Alumni Association, Athletics Board, etc.).

- (b) The IO may appoint alternate members to the IACUC consistent with the AWAR and PHS Policy. The IO may appoint non-voting ex officio members to the IACUC who represent other offices and functions of the University in order to facilitate effective integration of the Program.
- (c) To provide for appropriate checks and balances in oversight of the Program, the Institutional Official, the Attending Veterinarian, and the IACUC Chair shall be three separate persons.
- (d) The IACUC may use consultants, as needed, for specific protocol review or advice to the committee. The consultant may offer options and advice, but may not vote on an animal protocol or amendment thereof.

2. Quorum

The total number of voting members of the IACUC necessary to conduct its work shall be determined by the IO in consultation with the IACUC Chair, Attending Veterinarian and Office of Research Integrity. A majority (more than 50%) of the voting members must be present at a convened IACUC meeting to constitute a quorum.

3. Multiple IACUCs

- (a) The Institutional Official may establish multiple IACUCs should the volume of animal activities exceed the reasonable capacity of a single IACUC to review the associated protocols and provide timely and effective oversight of the Program.
- (b) If multiple IACUCs are established, they shall report to a central, all-campus IACUC, the composition of which shall include the chairs of the individual IACUCs as members. The overall composition of any IACUC and the all-campus IACUC shall conform to federal requirements.
- (b) No more than three persons from the same department-level administrative unit (department, center or institute) shall serve as members of the same IACUC.

D. The Office of Research Integrity

The Office of Research Integrity:

1. Provides administrative support and guidance for the Program and facilitates program integration;
2. Supports the activities of the IACUC, including the scheduling and logistics of IACUC meetings, the coordination of semiannual program review and facility inspections, and the scheduling and coordination of subcommittee meetings as necessary;
3. Maintains protocol records and correspondence relating to protocol review and approval, records of semiannual program reviews and facility inspections, animal user occupational health and training records, and records of official correspondence between the University and regulatory and oversight agencies;
4. Provides training for IACUC members and research personnel using animals, and serves as a central information resource for the care and use of animals;
6. Facilitates communication between the IACUC, IO, and Attending Veterinarian in meeting their regulatory obligations; and
7. Provides guidance and assists investigators in submitting the necessary documentation for IACUC review of animal use protocols.

E. Principal Investigator

1. Investigators who use animals in research, teaching, or testing have a responsibility to society and the scientific community for the proper stewardship of the animals used. The use of animals at the University is a privilege governed by government regulations, University policy, and public concerns.
2. The principal investigator of an animal care and use protocol shall be directly responsible for ensuring that personnel listed on the protocol comply with the provisions of this administrative regulation.

V. References and Related Materials

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/legislat/usdaleg1.htm>

Public Health USDA-APHIS Animal Care Policy Manual:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/policy.shtml

Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy):
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/PHSPolicyLabAnimals.pdf>

HHS/NIH/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

Guide for the Use and Care of Laboratory Animals, Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. National Academies Press (1996): http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=5140

Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, Federation of Animal Science Societies (1999): <http://www.fass.org/page.asp?pageID=216>

AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (2007): http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf

The IACUC Handbook (Silverman, Suckow and Murthy, eds.), 2nd Ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2007.

Revision History

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For questions, contact: [Office of Legal Counsel](#)