Standard Administrative Procedure Statement

Federal rules and regulations govern the use of vertebrate animals for research, teaching and testing purposes. In order to assure the institution’s ability to use animals in research and education, the University and individual Principal Investigator must adhere to and comply with all applicable rules, regulations, and principles.

Official Procedure/ Responsibilities/ Process

1. GENERAL

“Use of animals” is defined as any activity involving vertebrate animals in which the natural life style or movements of the animals is perturbed. Use of animal carcasses, tissues and fluids obtained specifically for research, testing or teaching purposes are subject to review according to applicable regulations and may be determined to be “use of animals.”

1.1. All animals used in research, teaching, or testing regardless of the funding sources, shall be provided humane care and treatment. The Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies has been delegated the responsibility for assuring compliance with animal care regulations and rules, the development and maintenance of institutional records, and submission of reports relating to the University's animal care and use program.

1.2. The use of vertebrate animals within the University, whether for education or research or testing purposes, shall be described in an Animal Use Protocol (AUP). The AUP is a form designed to capture relevant information regarding the appropriate use of the animals in teaching or research activities.

1.3. For each project involving animals used in research, teaching, or testing an AUP must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
1.4. An AUP must be fully approved prior to the initiation of any work, and before any animals may be acquired, housed, or used for research, testing or teaching.

1.5. An approved and current AUP for all animal activities must be in place at all times animals are housed or used for research, testing or teaching.

1.6. Modifications to approved animal activities must be fully approved prior to initiation of the changes.

2. PHS ASSURANCE AND APPROPRIATE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH, TESTING, AND TEACHING

The University's Animal Welfare Assurance is on file with the Public Health Service indicating the institution’s commitment to humane animal care and is maintained in accordance with federal regulations. This statement is applicable to all Public Health Service-supported use of animals in research, teaching or testing.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

3.1 The IACUC shall be appointed, structured, and shall perform duties and functions as set forth in the following documents (most current versions) or other applicable documents promulgated by relevant government agencies.


3.1.2 Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (National Institutes of Health)

3.1.3 Health Research Extension Act of 1985

3.1.4 U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training

3.1.5 The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

3.1.6 Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching

3.1.7 United States Department of Agriculture Animal Care Policies

3.2 In addition to membership requirements of the federal documents, the following shall apply to the IACUC. The IACUC shall be appointed by and report to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. Membership shall include each of the following:

- A representative from the Comparative Medicine Program;
- A representative from the Office of Research Compliance (Division of Research and Graduate Studies).
3.3 The IACUC shall review, approve, and provide guidance on the procurement, housing, humane and appropriate care, use and proper disposition of animals at the College Station and Galveston campuses.

3.4 The IACUC shall carry out all of those duties specifically assigned to it in government regulations and policies. In addition to duties mandated in government regulations and policies, the IACUC shall review all aspects of the program for the humane care and use of animals including short-term and long-term goals, and regulations and procedures pertaining to animal care and use.

4. USE OF ANIMALS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

4.1 Use of animals in agricultural research, teaching or testing is overseen by the IACUC. Texas A&M University and affiliated institutions must follow the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching when conducting research, teaching or testing involving food and fiber production in agricultural animals.

4.2 When agricultural animals are involved in biomedical research, animal use and compliance must adhere to additional applicable federal guidelines.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

5.1 Principal investigators and unit heads are responsible for assuring that animal work is appropriately reviewed and approved prior to initiation of any activities or changes to approved activities. Regardless of funding sources, research protocols involving the use of animals in teaching, research and testing must be prepared and signed by the principal investigator and must be reviewed and approved by IACUC. If research is collaborative or involves other institutions, approval must be obtained from each institution.

5.2 Principal investigators are responsible for assuring that conduct of animal research, teaching or testing activities is restricted to the animal activities described in the approved AUP or approved amendments, and is in congruence with funding grants, if applicable.

5.3 Principal investigators are responsible for assuring that all participants in animal activities are appropriately qualified through training and education to perform their responsibilities as listed in the AUP.

5.4 Principal investigators are responsible for assuring that all participants in animal activities are enrolled in an Occupational Health and Safety program.

5.5 Principal investigators are responsible for assuring that all animal activities involving hazardous and biohazardous activities are approved by the appropriate safety committees.
6. ATTENDING VETERINARIAN

6.1 The Attending Veterinarian shall advise the College Station campus and Galveston campus animal facility managers, animal users, and administrators on current standards for the care and use of animals in teaching, testing and research programs, and shall serve as the Attending Veterinarian of record for both campuses under the Federal Animal Welfare Act.

6.2 The Attending Veterinarian has direct or delegated authority for activities involving animals at the institution, serves as a voting member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) and coordinates campus programs for provision of adequate veterinary care of research, testing and teaching animals.

7. CARE AND USE OF NON-UNIVERSITY OWNED ANIMALS

7.1 Non-University owned vertebrate animals may not be used by TAMU faculty, students, or staff without prior approval of the IACUC. In addition to on-campus activity, this compliance requirement includes, but is not limited to, animal teaching, testing, and research conducted:

7.1.1 In the field by TAMU faculty, students, or staff under the auspices of the campus;
7.1.2 By TAMU graduate students at other institutions as part of the completion of a degree;
7.1.3 At another institution as part of a joint contract with TAMU faculty;
7.1.4 Off-campus activities involving an undergraduate student as part of completion of a TAMU undergraduate course;
7.1.5 In the teaching of TAMU undergraduate and graduate courses;
7.1.6 By graduate veterinarians for Continuing Education; and
7.1.7 With client-owned animals participating in clinical research studies.

---

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Supplements System regulation 15.99.05

Contact Office

Division of Research and Graduate Studies
Research Compliance
979-458-1467