

University of Arkansas at Monticello

ANIMAL CARE AND USE POLICY

Effective September 6, 2006

The following is the policy of the University of Arkansas at Monticello (hereafter referred to as the University) regarding animal care and use. It applies to all research and teaching using live vertebrate animals conducted at the University campus, or by University faculty, staff, or students when acting as representatives of the University at off-campus locations. This policy does not apply to research and teaching using human subjects.

1. The University endorses and supports the responsible use of animals in research and teaching. This Policy on Animal Care and Use is designed to ensure that animal use at the University is conducted in a humane, productive, and responsible fashion. The University acknowledges and accepts responsibility for the care and use of animals in research and teaching, and will make a reasonable effort to ensure that all individuals involved in the care and use of animals understand their individual and collective responsibilities for compliance with the University's Policy on Animal Care and Use as well as all other applicable laws and regulations pertaining to animal care and use.
2. The University endorses and will comply with the following:
 - A. All applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, its amendments, and the regulations formulated to implement this act (hereafter referred to as the Animal Welfare Act regulations).
 - B. U. S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training.
 - C. The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (hereafter referred to as PHS Policy). The University will maintain an Animal Welfare Assurance, as specified by PHS Policy, with the Office for Protection from Research Risks of the National Institutes of Health.
 - D. All applicable provisions of other federal and state statutes and regulations relating to animals.
3. The University recognizes the classification of animal use in research and teaching into the following three categories for the purpose of specifying the standards for animal care and use within each category. These three categories and the corresponding standards are:
 - A. Biomedical research and teaching. This is research and teaching whose goal is to generate or communicate knowledge that will contribute to improving the health and well-being of humans and/or animals not involved in agricultural production.
 1. For biomedical research and teaching the University endorses the standards for animal care and use contained within two separate documents. These are 1) the Animal Welfare Act regulations, and 2) the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. It is the policy of the University that each of these documents will apply to those species specified in each document. Anyone conducting biomedical research and teaching with a vertebrate species not covered by these documents should work closely with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the Animal Welfare Veterinarian (see Items 5-7 below) to develop appropriate guidelines for the particular species being studied.
 - B. Agricultural research and teaching. This is research and teaching whose goal is to generate or communicate knowledge that will contribute to the improvement of commercial food or fiber production from animals.
 1. For agricultural research and teaching, the University endorses the standards for animal care and use contained within the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, prepared by the NASULGC Consortium.
 - C. Field research and teaching. This is research and teaching whose goal is to generate or communicate knowledge that will contribute to our understanding of animals living in the wild. This category is limited to the study of animals that are living in the wild. If wild animals are

captured and brought into the laboratory for study, all use conducted in the laboratory will be subject to the standards for biomedical research and teaching outlined in Item 3.A.

1. For field research and teaching, the University endorses the standards for animal care and use contained within the following documents and any subsequent revisions.
 - A. For mammals:
Acceptable field methods in Mammalogy: Preliminary guidelines approved by the American Society of Mammalogists. (1987). Journal of Mammalogy, Supplement to Volume 68(4), 1-18.
 - B. For birds:
Report of the American Ornithologists' Union. Ad hoc committee on the use of wild birds in research. (1988). The Auk, Supplement to Volume 105(1), 1A-41A.
 - C. For amphibians and reptiles:
Guidelines for the use of live amphibians and reptiles in field research. (1987). Joint publication of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, The Herpetologists' League, and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.
 - D. For fishes:
Guidelines for the use of fishes in field research. (1987). Joint publication of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Fisheries Society, and American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists.

For the purpose of classification, research and teaching not clearly identifiable as agricultural or field research and teaching will be classified as biomedical research and teaching.

4. For standards of euthanasia in all categories of research and teaching, the University endorses the following document and any subsequent revisions:
Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia. (1993). Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, 202(2): 229-249.
5. The University recognizes the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as its representative in overseeing, supporting, and regulating animal care and use. The IACUC is charged with monitoring adherence to the Animal Welfare Act regulations, PHS Policy, and the University's Policy on Animal Care and Use, and is empowered to develop the procedures and forms needed to carry out this task. All research or teaching using live vertebrate animals that is covered by the University's Policy on Animal Care and Use, regardless of its purpose or source of funding, must have prior written approval from the IACUC of an Animal Use Protocol submitted by the user for review by the committee. There is one exception to this policy, which is that specific Animal Use Protocols shall not be required for agricultural teaching applications involving the non-stressful observation of farm animals, demonstration of judging techniques, demonstration of accepted farm management practices, or normal use of farm animals in production. Instead, standard operating procedures detailing such practices and procedures shall be kept on file in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and shall be incorporated into the Policies and Procedures of the Division of Agriculture.
6. The IACUC operates in full compliance with PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Act regulations. It has the following duties, powers, and membership:
 - A. It recommends policies and procedures concerning the uses, care, housing, and disposal of vertebrate animals held or used for research, teaching, or other activities.
 - B. It reviews at least semi-annually the University's program for humane care and use of animals.
 - C. It inspects at least semi-annually all of the University's animal facilities, including satellite facilities, that are involved in biomedical or field research and teaching.
 - D. It reviews concerns involving the care and use of animals at the University.
 - E. It makes written recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs regarding any aspect of the University's animal program, facilities, or personnel training with the report to include violations, deficiencies, and deviations from approved practices.
 - F. It notifies, through the appropriate institutional official (the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs), the Office for Protection from Research Risks of the Public Health Service and the Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as well as the funding agency, if deficiencies exist after ample time for correction.

- G. It reviews and approves, requires modifications in (to secure approval), or withholds approval of Animal Use Protocols.
- H. It reviews and approves, requires modifications in (to secure approval), or withholds approval of proposed significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities.
- I. It notifies investigators and the University in writing of its decision to approve or withhold approval of Animal Use Protocols, or of modifications required to secure IACUC approval.
- J. It inspects, at its discretion, facilities at which an Animal Use Protocol is being conducted.
- K. It is authorized to suspend an activity involving animals.
- L. Members are appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Membership consists of at least the following:
 - 1. One representative and an alternate nominated by the unit head from each of the units regularly utilizing vertebrate animals for research or teaching.
 - 2. One representative from a department in an area other than the biological sciences (a nonanimal user).
 - 3. One representative from the surrounding community who is not a member of the immediate family of anyone affiliated with the University.
 - 4. One graduate student representative and an alternate who is in one of the disciplines affected by the committee work.
 - 5. The Animal Welfare Veterinarian.
 - 6. Ex officio and non-voting, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or his/her designee.

The non-animal user faculty representative and the community representative will be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. At least one member of the committee must hold a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Not more than three members shall be from the same administrative unit at the program level of the University. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will designate a chairperson from the members.

- 7. The Animal Welfare Veterinarian shall be appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. On matters relating to animal welfare the Animal Welfare Veterinarian shall report to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The duties of the Animal Welfare Veterinarian, in addition to sitting on the IACUC, include the following:
 - A. Work with the IACUC to assure compliance of animal facilities with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, applicable state and local laws, PHS and NIH guidelines, and accreditation organizations.
 - B. Assure that education and research endeavors involving animals are conducted according to acceptable practices and as approved by the IACUC.
 - C. Work with the IACUC to develop institutional guidelines and provide programs concerning veterinary care for animals used in research or teaching. Preventive, diagnostic, and surgical services should be administered through the Animal Welfare Veterinarian.
 - D. Facilitate development of proposed animal research projects and provide counsel to principal or cooperative investigators during conception, performance, and completion of IACUC-approved protocols.
 - E. Train animal care technicians on an as-needed basis and through regularly scheduled seminars. Prepare and make available materials pertaining to policies and acceptable procedures. Advise personnel as needed. Provide continuing education opportunities to all interested personnel.
 - F. Help in developing comprehensive sanitation and general housekeeping programs for each animal housing unit and related facilities. Establish programs for aseptic techniques, surgical equipment care, and pharmacological usage and storage. Conduct periodic inspections of all facilities involved in biomedical or field research and teaching.
 - G. Apprise appropriate institutional officials of problems that arise pertaining to physical plant problems or deviations from accepted practices or procedures. Confer with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on matters of animal care and use in research and teaching.

- H. Provide information as needed for the safety and protection of personnel as it relates to occupational health hazards. Coordinate efforts with other appointed safety officers (biohazard, radioactive materials).
 - I. Assemble materials and prepare various reports and statements as requested or required by various regulatory or accreditation agencies.
 - J. Provide veterinary services to animals being used in a research or teaching project.
8. Anyone having a concern that the University's Policy on Animal Care and Use is being violated should report his/her concern to the chair of the IACUC. An inspection will then be made by the chair of the IACUC or other members of the IACUC appointed by the chair. If deficiencies in animal care and use are observed, the IACUC will take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with University policy. If serious misconduct regarding animal care and use occurs, administrative action may be used to rectify the situation.
9. An occupational health program will be provided by the University for personnel who work in laboratory animal facilities or have substantial laboratory animal contact. This program will be periodically reviewed by a qualified Occupational Health Professional and will include the following components:
- A. A medical history and physical examination will be completed for each laboratory animal worker prior to beginning work with animals. Periodic physical examinations will be carried out for workers in job categories that expose them to potentially hazardous circumstances.
 - B. An ongoing education program will ensure that all laboratory animal workers are aware of potential hazards such as zoonoses, possible injuries from or allergies to animals, and any safety hazards associated with the specific type of work being carried out.
 - C. An immunization program will ensure that all laboratory animal workers have been vaccinated for tetanus. In addition, voluntary vaccinations will be provided for individuals exposed to animals known or suspected to carry specific infectious diseases for which effective vaccines are available.
 - D. Zoonoses surveillance will be provided, including keeping records of individual work assignments, bite wounds, and unusual illnesses.

Documents Providing Standards for Animal Care and Use

The following documents (and any subsequent revisions) are those referred to in and endorsed by the University of Arkansas at Monticello's Policy on Animal Care and Use:

1. Regulations for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act. Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1-3. (Referred to in this document as the Animal Welfare Act regulations).
2. U. S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training. (1985). Interagency Research Animal Committee. Federal Register, May 20, 1985. (These principles are listed in Appendix D of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals).
3. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. (1996). Office for Protection from Research Risks, National Institutes of Health. (Referred to in this document as PHS Policy).
4. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (7th edition). (1996). National Academy Press.
5. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching. (1988). NASULGC Consortium. Association Headquarters, 309 W. Clark St., Champaign, IL 61820.
6. Acceptable field methods in Mammalogy: Preliminary guidelines approved by the American Society of Mammalogists. (1987). Journal of Mammalogy, Supplement to Volume 68(4), 1-18.
7. Report of the American Ornithologists' Union. Ad hoc committee on the use of wild birds in research. (1988). The Auk, Supplement to Volume 105(1), 1A-41A.
8. Guidelines for the use of live amphibians and reptiles in field research. (1987). Joint publication of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, The Herpetologists' League, and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.
9. Guidelines for the use of fishes in field research. (1987). Joint publication of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, American Fisheries Society, and American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists.
10. Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia. (1993). Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, 202(2): 229-249.