

Policy RA-PO5

Policy Regarding Animals Used in Research, Teaching, and Testing Activities

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I. Title

Policy Regarding Animals Used in Research, Teaching, and Testing Activities

II. Policy

A. Statement of Principles

1. The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) is committed to the principle that research, teaching, and public service activities should contribute to the acquisition of knowledge and should benefit humanity. The use of animals in research and teaching is a privilege carrying with it unique professional and moral obligations to ensure that animals are treated humanely and in accordance with the policies of UTA, the regulations of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy), and other laws and policies of the federal government and other agencies.

B. Scope

1. This policy applies to all individuals who use live vertebrate animals in research, research training, teaching, testing, or exhibition. It is applicable to activities that occur in university facilities as well as other locations whenever projects involve university funding, faculty scholarship, or any faculty/staff/student effort as part of university activities.

C. Policy Statement

1. It is the policy of UTA to assure that the use of animals in all research-related activities conducted at university facilities or any other location,

by any faculty, staff or students of the University will be done in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations and the *Rules and Regulations* of the UT System Board of Regents.

2. An Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will be maintained to review research projects and activities that involve animals [as defined in Section III., Definitions]. The IACUC shall consist of qualified representatives charged with the major responsibility of assuring the humane care and use of animals in accord with the related federal regulations as referenced in Section IV.
3. The jurisdiction of the UTA IACUC is defined by UTA's institutional policies, the IACUC's registration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and UTA's Animal Welfare Assurance (A3169-01) with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). The Assurance is an agreement between OLAW and the University to review and approve research involving animals in accordance with the regulations outlined in the PHS Policy. An institution must have an Assurance in order to receive PHS support for research involving animals. Each Assurance must designate at least one IACUC registered with OLAW and comply with the terms of an Assurance in accordance with the terms of OLAW and the [PHS Policy, Section IV.A.](#)
4. No research activity involving animals shall be undertaken unless the IACUC has reviewed and preapproved such activity. Although federal regulations require IACUC approval specifically for activities supported or conducted by the PHS, the University extends the review procedure to all such projects under its jurisdiction, whether privately or publicly funded, or unfunded. Since the use of animals in research and related activities may raise ethical questions, no distinction in the monitoring of projects will be drawn between funded and unfunded projects or sponsored and unsponsored projects.
5. The conduct of any research involving animals shall be reviewed by the IACUC before it is begun and at timely intervals thereafter in accord with federal regulations. Research covered by this policy that has been approved by the IACUC may be subject to further appropriate review and approval or disapproval by officials of the institution (for example, certain projects may expose the institution to risk or liability or involve other procedures that may require administrative review and approval). *However, those officials may not approve the research if it has not been approved by the IACUC.*
6. The IACUC has the authority to review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed activities related to the care and use of animals.
7. As granted by the institution, the Attending Veterinarian has direct authority and responsibility for animal activities at the institution and to implement the related federal regulations and recommendations of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. The Attending Veterinarian has direct program authority and responsibility for the institution's animal care and use program and will maintain access to all

animals. The Attending Veterinarian has the authority to implement all aspects of the veterinary care program and to oversee the adequacy of all other aspects of animal care and use, including: animal husbandry, nutrition, sanitation practices, zoonosis control, and hazard containment. The Attending Veterinarian has the authority to halt any animal care or use procedure that is considered by him/her to jeopardize the health or well-being of the animal, or that is not in compliance with the related federal regulations or the recommendations of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

8. Reviews by the IACUC will be conducted with objectivity and in a manner to ensure the exercise of independent judgment of the members. Members will be excluded from review of projects or activities in which they have an active role or conflict of interest, in accordance with related federal regulations and [UTA Policy 5-703](#).
9. The IACUC will conduct semi-annual program reviews and facility inspections and provide semi-annual reports to the Institutional Official in accordance with federal regulations. The standards in the *Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* are used by the IACUC as the basis for conducting its reviews.
10. The IACUC will promote continuing constructive communication between Board members and the principal investigator(s) as a means of ensuring the humane care and use of animals.
11. The institution and the IACUC will consider ethical principles of humane experimental techniques such as the [Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training](#) in order to improve animal welfare and scientific quality.
12. In cooperative research projects (those projects normally supported through grants, contracts, or similar arrangements, which involve institutions in addition to UTA), each institution is responsible for safeguarding the welfare of animals and for complying with federal regulations. When research is conducted at or in cooperation with another entity, the investigator must obtain either approval from the UTA IACUC, or written acknowledgement from the UTA IACUC of its acceptance of a collaborating institution's IACUC approval for the project. In instances where UTA's IACUC acknowledges approval of a cooperating institution's IACUC approval in accordance with the [OLAW Notice NOT-OD-01-017](#), the institution of the IACUC of record must have an approved Animal Welfare Assurance. Whenever UTA relies upon an IACUC operated by another institution or organization for review of research covered by its Assurance, UTA will maintain documentation of review.
13. The IACUC and institution will take action to mitigate or eliminate financial conflicts of interest that have the potential to affect the welfare of animals in research as described in the [Department of Health and Human Services Grants Policy regarding Financial Conflict of Interest](#). All principal investigators are subject to UTA's Conflict of Interest Policy.

14. Investigators working with live animals in research must adhere to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the IACUC and the Animal Care Facility. See Section V.

III. Definitions

Animal: any live vertebrate animal used or intended for use in biomedical or behavioral research, research training, teaching, testing, or exhibition.

Attending Veterinarian: the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) attending veterinarian with direct or delegated program responsibility who has training and experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, or in the care of the species used.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC): a committee appointed by the University's Institutional Official charged with providing local review and oversight of research and other scholarly activities utilizing animals.

Investigator: a tenured, tenure track, or research faculty member qualified with assigned research space at the University responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of the research or educational activity proposed.

Institutional Official ("IO"): the individual who, as a representative of senior administration, bears ultimate responsibility for the program and is responsible for resource planning and ensuring alignment of program goals with the President's mission. The IO is the Vice President for Research.

IV. Relevant Federal and State Statutes

UTA will comply with federal, state, and local rules and regulations pertaining to animal research:

- Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals ([PHS Policy](#))
- [The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#)
- [Animal Welfare Act and Regulations](#)
- [AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals](#)

V. Relevant UT System Policies, Procedures and Forms

UTA's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: Standard Operating Procedures. <http://www.uta.edu/research/administration/departments/rs/animals-subjects-iacuc/iacuc-policies-and-procedures.php>

VI. Who Should Know

This policy impacts all UTA employees and students engaging in research.

VII. **UT Arlington Office(s) Responsible for Policy**

The Office of the Vice President for Research: The Vice President for Research is the Institutional Official for the animal care and use program at UTA. The Institutional Official is the individual who, as a representative of senior administration, bears ultimate responsibility for the program and is responsible for resource planning and ensuring alignment of program goals with the Institution's mission.

VIII. **Dates Approved or Amended**

June 28, 2017

IX. **Contact Information**

All questions concerning this policy should be directed to Research Administration-Office of Regulatory Services.