



Policy for the Use of Vertebrate Animals for Research, Instruction, or Testing

PURPOSE

This policy of the University of Michigan assures the humane use and care of vertebrate animals used in research, instruction, or testing. It further guarantees that any reported concerns regarding the care and use of vertebrate animals are investigated and addressed in a timely and professional manner.

The policy validates U-M's adherence to applicable laws, regulations, policies, standards, and ethical principles governing the use of vertebrate animals in research, instruction, or testing, and serves the needs of scientists conducting vertebrate animal activities. It enacts the necessary provisions of the University's "Public Health Service Animal Welfare Assurance", which is an agreement between the U-M and the Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare at the National Institutes of Health that must be maintained for U-M scientists to be eligible to compete for federal funds to support research.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all vertebrate animal activities conducted under the auspices of U-M at any location including the Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn campuses as well as any subcontract or field locations, except as excluded below. In addition, it applies whether the supporting funds are internally or externally sourced, whether separately budgeted or non-budgeted.

EXCLUSIONS

The following materials are excluded from this policy and exempt from IACUC review, unless specifically required by a funding agency:

1. Invertebrate animals such as insects and cephalopods;
2. Embryos (e.g. unhatched eggs, larval fish less than 7 days' post-fertilization);
3. Tissues or samples collected from animals euthanized under an approved IACUC protocol;
4. Animal tissues or parts acquired from commercial sources such as a grocery store or an USDA-inspected slaughterhouse; and
5. Established cell lines, as well as biological fluids available as standard inventory from a commercial supplier.

DEFINITIONS

1. The **Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP)** refers to the activities conducted by and U-M that have a direct impact on the well-being of animals, including animal and veterinary care, policies and



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procedures, personnel and program management and oversight, occupational health and safety, IACUC functions, and animal facility design and management.

2. **Vertebrate Animal**, for the purpose of this policy, is any non-human organism possessing a well-developed nervous system as characterized by the presence of a dorsal notochord protected by a vertebral column. This policy applies to both live and dead animals.
3. The **Attending Veterinarian** is responsible for the health and wellbeing of all laboratory animals used at the institution. The institution provides the AV with sufficient authority, including access to all animals and resources to manage the program of veterinary care. The AV oversees other aspects of animal care and use (e.g. husbandry, housing) to ensure that the ACUP complies with the Guide.
4. The **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** is a Committee appointed to review all proposed research, testing or teaching activities involving vertebrate animals to be conducted under the auspices of the University. Projects are reviewed to ensure the necessary provisions have been established to ensure the health and welfare of the animals. The membership of this committee provides for a balanced review of all submitted activities by inclusion of veterinarians, faculty, staff, and local community representatives.
5. The **Institutional Official** is the individual authorized to sign the institution's Assurance, making a commitment on behalf of the institution that the requirements of the PHS Policy will be satisfied.
6. An **Animal Facility** is any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles used for animal confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments.
7. A **Study Area** is any building room, area, enclosure, or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals covered under USDA regulations are housed for more than 12 hours.
8. A **Satellite Facility** is any containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals not covered under USDA regulations are housed for more than 24 hours.
9. A **Field Study** any study performed on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat and may include animal capture, restraint/handling, invasive procedures, environmental manipulation and/or activities that cause excessive disturbance to animals.



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POLICY

IACUC approval is required prior to the actual involvement of a vertebrate animal in any research, instruction, or testing activities. Projects involving an external sponsor must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC before funding is accepted. In addition, and to ensure oversight, this policy enacts the following:

1. The AV and his/her designees have the authority, including unlimited access to all U-M animals and resources, to manage the institution's program of veterinary care. Consequently, animal activities (e.g. housing and experimental manipulations) may only be conducted in areas that are authorized by the AV or designee and subsequently approved by the IACUC;
2. The animal care and use program (ACUP) includes specifically defined animal use areas, such as animal and satellite facilities and study areas, which must be used by scientists and/or ULAM staff for housing or conducting animal activities. Additional animal use areas (e.g. via the conversion of existing space or new construction) can only be added to the ACUP after consultation with the AV or delegate and subsequent approval by the IACUC. Consultation with the AV must occur during the planning phase before construction occurs;
3. As part of the veterinary care program, the AV manages the health status of all U-M animals through biosecurity, quarantine, and medical surveillance programs. To effectively accomplish this task, the AV considers the health status of animals, physical plant layout and operational practices of each animal use area when identifying housing and procedure locations for individual scientists. To facilitate this objective, the AV and his/her designees are authorized to assign any housing and procedure locations that are part of the University ACUP to individual scientists conducting animal activities under the auspices of U-M;
4. The University's IACUC has the authority to suspend or terminate the approval of previously approved animal activities; and
5. Any IACUC submission describing the use of a hazardous agent (e.g. chemical, biological, or radioactive) will require prior approval by Environmental Health and Safety, Radiation Policy Committee, and/or the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Concerns regarding the proper care and use of vertebrate animals in a University project can be reported to the ACUO, AV, Institutional Official, IACUC Chair or U-M Hotline (1- 866-990-0111). All reports are handled anonymously, investigated by the IACUC and resolved in a timely manner.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions, additional detail, or to request changes to this policy, please contact the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Research, Director of the Animal Care and Use Office.