

Animal Acquisition and Disposition – Guideline

See also: Animal Acquisition and Disposition Policy

Acquisition of Animals

Dogs and Cats

USDA APHIS requires specific, detailed records to be kept on individual dogs and cats acquired and used by a research facility. USDA APHIS [Form 7005](#), *Record of Acquisition of Dogs and Cats On Hand*, must be completed for dogs and cats, excepting for use of privately owned animals per Client Consent Form. This form must be completed by the PI or designee, and copied for their records and for the offices of LARC and IACUC. Records must be kept for 3 years after disposition of the animal(s). All acquired adult dogs and cats must have a USDA-approved method of identification, per USDA Animal Identification [Policy #13](#).

Wildlife

Permits are generally required for the use of vertebrate wildlife species in captivity or in field research. Detailed recordkeeping will greatly assist the researcher in proving that they are in compliance with applicable laws. Our program requires accounting for all used and acquired animals in an annual report. The use of endangered species must conform with all federal and state laws, in addition to US-international conventions.

Breeding Colonies

IACUC oversight of acquisition from breeding colonies must ensure that the need for a breeding colony is established based on research objectives or animal welfare concerns. Also, the procedures for care, typing, and use in the breeding colony should be consistent, and evaluated by IACUC both as part of protocol review and semiannual program review. Protocols should estimate number of breeders, young that cannot be used for scientific reasons, and animals that will ultimately be subjected to studies. Animals from a production colony will not always be able to match supply with demand, but that should remain the goal.

Agricultural Animals and Horses

Farm animals and horses used in biomedical research are regulated by the AWARs, including AWAR transportation requirements (AWAR 3.136-3.142). Entities that deal primarily in research animals must be licensed by APHIS, abide by transport regulations, and complete USDA APHIS [Form 7020](#), *Record of Acquisition, Disposition, or Transport of Animals (Other than Dogs and Cats)*. If an agent of OSU picks up animals and transports those animals to the institution, that care and transportation must satisfy the AWAR health, husbandry and transportation standards. Producers that occasionally sell animals to researchers for use in food and fiber research or purposes other than biomedical research, are not regulated by APHIS. OSU becomes the responsible entity when we take custody of animals.

Unknown Health Status

Acquisition of animals with unknown health status should be limited to those instances when that animal supply is very limited. Acquired animals should not cause otherwise preventable pain or distress to other animals within the program, and inadvertent transmission of disease may cause research to be compromised and therefore duplicative if repeated. The institution's program of veterinary care provides for the stabilization, isolation and health characterization of unknown health status animals.

Transfer between Protocols

Transfer procedures should include informed consent with LARC, and/or the CVM oversight board, and IACUC as appropriate. There must be a means to assure that the species and number of animals has been approved for the project before transfer; that multiple, unrelated major survival surgical procedures are prevented (unless specifically approved); and that an appropriate mechanism exists to transfer numbers of animals from one protocol to another, as deemed appropriate by IACUC. Animals held in very large numbers (fish, for example), may be managed by the scientist and documented in their records which must be available for review.

Privately Owned Animals

The IACUC requires approval of animal activities that are owned by the institution, and/or intended for use in research, training/teaching and testing. AAALAC reviews IACUC oversight of animals owned by the institution, regardless of funding. If studies are PHS-funded, then the PHS Policy (III, A) is applied, regardless of ownership. Similarly, the USDA (AWAR 1.1) includes all regulated species in regulated activities, regardless of funding. When animals are privately owned and used in OSU activities without the mandate of federal oversight, a client or owner consent form is used. Pets used in clinical trials remain the property of owners, who maintain responsibility for their husbandry, housing, and transportation, unless on the property of the institution for research purposes. The IACUC may reevaluate this on a case-by-case basis.

Disposition of Animals

Activities with animals owned by the institution may end in a number of ways: euthanasia, adoption, retirement or release to natural habitat, return to production agriculture, sale for food, transfer to another protocol or institution, as deemed appropriate.

Euthanasia

In many instances, animals are euthanized. Disposition considerations include procedure and experimental history, exposure to substances, infectious agents, method of euthanasia, etc. Carcass disposal may involve burial, landfill deposition, incineration, alkaline hydrolysis, rendering, etc., as deemed appropriate.

Adoption

Animals may be adopted provided the animals are healthy and suitable for placement. OSU has animal placement policies for both large animals and small animals.

Dogs and cats owned by the university per USDA APHIS [Form 7005](#), *Record of Acquisition of Dogs and Cats On Hand*, must have a completed USDA APHIS [Form 7006](#), *Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats*, prior to release. The completed disposition form should accompany the acquisition form, in records kept by the PI (or designee), LARC and IACUC. All records related to dog and cat ownership by the university must be kept for 3 years after disposition.

Sale for Slaughter/Human Food or Animal Food Use

The decision to return animals to the food chain after use must be carefully considered, as there is potential for institutional liability and individual liability. Meat and dairy products must be carefully screened for residues, infectious agents or other adulterants. Endangerment to the food supply due to failure to meet safety standards can be accompanied by fines and/or sanctions and may affect the ability of the AV to practice.

Veterinary care and drug withdrawals for animals sent to market must be consistent with the Animal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA). No lingering evidence of manipulations or presence of implants are allowed, and all FDA restrictions are followed. In the event that animals are given a new drug, as defined by the FDA, no meat, eggs, or milk from those animals may be processed for human food without FDA approval.