Oregon State University is one of two land, sea, space, and sun grant universities in the country. The mission of OSU is to promote economic, social, cultural and environmental progress for people across Oregon, the nation, and the world through research, scholarship, outreach, and engagement. Multiple campus colleges and disciplines use animals in some aspects of teaching, research and testing to fulfill this mission. All OSU-owned animals fall under the oversight of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Periodically animals remain at the end of a project or class that can no longer be maintained by the university and could be placed in private homes. The OSU Animal Placement Program provides mechanisms for transferring ownership of OSU animals that are responsible, compassionate and compliant with the Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon University System Policies.

The Animal Placement Program includes three sections: the Animal Placement Policy for Small Animals, the Animal Placement Program for Large Animals and a disposition system for campus animals bred and raised for food and fiber.

1. The Animal Placement Program for Small Animals confirms that disposition of university small pet animals is through the Oregon Humane Society in Portland. This is done by formal agreement between OSU and OHS. OSU agrees to transfer ownership of animals to OHS. OHS makes every attempt to place the animals in private homes.

2. The OSU Animal Placement Program for Large Animals is an internal system designed to identify homes for large animals, primarily horses, llamas, and alpacas. This program utilizes an online application and closed bid process. There is an internal applicant review and selection process. Transfer of the animal to the new owner is arranged through OSU Surplus Property.

3. Campus-owned animals bred and raised as commodity for food and/or fiber are sold at auction through an agreement between OSU Surplus Property and the College of Agriculture or other appropriate units. These animals may include, but are not limited to swine, poultry, cattle, sheep and goats. Documentation of these transactions is maintained by OSU Surplus Property and the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences.