



Research Office IACUC	Animal Acquisition & Disposition - Guideline	IACUC Approved: Dec 2021 Page 1 of 3
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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, with the exception of privately owned animals which remain in their owner's care. 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.

Wildlife

The use of vertebrate wildlife species in captivity or field research often requires state or federal permits and must conform to all federal and state laws, in addition to US-International treaties and conventions. Species listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act cannot be used without appropriate state and federal permits. Copies of appropriate permits should be available to the IACUC upon request. Our program requires accounting for all used and acquired animals, and that includes wildlife. 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, genotyping, 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).

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.

Animals Acquired by Private Donation

Donation as an animal source must be described in an approved protocol and a copy of the donation form should be reviewed by the IACUC. Units that receive animals via donation should work with department leadership and General Council to develop forms and processes that ensure transparency, good biosecurity, and appropriate receiving procedures. Acclimation and quarantine periods should be determined in consultation with a veterinarian and be consistent with the health status and proposed use of the animal.

Acclimation

Acclimation provides newly acquired animals a period of time for physiologic, behavioral, and nutritional adaptation prior to undergoing procedures. Acclimation periods minimize distress and promote reproducible, sound science. Animals that are used for terminal research purposes (for example, collection of primary cells/tissues or non-survival surgical instruction) may not require an acclimation period, however their use must be described in an IACUC approved protocol.

The table below provides recommended minimum acclimation periods by species. Exceptions require IACUC approval.

Species	Minimum
Non-mammalian vertebrates	48 hours

Laboratory mice and rats	48 hours
USDA covered species (Includes wild-caught mammals, guinea pigs, rabbits, horses used for veterinary teaching, and livestock used in biomedical research)	7 days
Livestock for agricultural teaching and research	7 days

Quarantine

Isolate newly acquired animals from those already in the facility, in a way that prevents potential spread of contaminants, until the health and the microbial status of the newly acquired animals has been determined. For most species quarantine should last for at least 2 weeks to provide time for signs of infectious disease to manifest and allow screening tests to be completed. Recommended quarantine periods may vary by species, use, and regional diseases of concern. Facility managers and investigators should work with a veterinarian to determine appropriate quarantine periods for their animals. Laboratory rodents from approved vendors with extensive health monitoring may enter the vivarium directly. All other rodents, including mice imported from other institutions, must undergo quarantine and testing under the direction of the Attending Veterinarian.

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.