Reporting Animal Welfare and other Concerns

POLICY:
Anyone with direct knowledge about animal mistreatment associated with Oregon State University should immediately contact the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee ("IACUC" or "Committee"), the Attending Veterinarian, or one of the other contacts listed below. Suspected concerns involving inappropriate, unauthorized, or noncompliant conduct of activities involving animal care and use should be reported promptly to the IACUC. It is the IACUC's responsibility to review concerns and incidents, and initiate appropriate follow-up actions.

The Animal Welfare Act protects the rights of individuals who report animal welfare concerns in good faith, and prohibits discrimination against or reprisal for reporting of violations of associated regulations and standards. In addition, it is against Oregon State University policy to retaliate against those who report suspected wrongdoing in good faith. See Oregon Whistleblowers Protection Law (ORS 659A.199).

GUIDELINE:
Prompt reporting of concerns enables protection for any affected animals, and promotes a caring and ethical culture here at OSU. Reports should include (but are not limited to) instances of:

1. Significant adverse impact on the health or welfare of one or more animals
2. Significant threat of adverse impact to animal welfare (such as extended power outages, flooding, facility damage)
3. Significant or repeated noncompliance issues with regulatory (State of Oregon, OLAW, USDA) or funding entity requirements (NSF, NIH)
4. Significant or repeated noncompliance issues with applicable Protocols, Policies, Assurances, and Agreements

Note that the Attending Veterinarian (AV) is authorized to assess and immediately halt any animal activities or procedures that, per their professional judgement, threaten the health or welfare of animals. In such cases, the AV then promptly provides a report to the IACUC.

Individuals may provide reports to any of the individuals below, or via OSU's EthicsPoint (online: oregonstate.ethicspoint.com or by phone: 1-855-388-4971). Individuals may choose to remain anonymous when using EthicsPoint, and when making a report in person.

When making a report, please provide the following details when possible: date & time, location(s), animal species and numbers, associated Protocol(s), descriptions of particular incidents or events, and any actions taken.

If there is an emergency, that endangers you or others, call 911 or Public Safety (541) 737-7000 immediately.
Contact list for animal welfare concerns:

- Attending Veterinarian, Dr. Helen Diggins: (541) 737-6213, (510) 363-5228
- IACUC Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Henry: (541) 737-2762, (541) 760-4841
- IACUC Chairperson, Dr. Chrissa Kioussi: (541) 737-2179, (541) 602-8505
- Public Safety: (541) 737-7000

You can submit an anonymous report online through the OSU Office of University Compliance site [http://leadership.oregonstate.edu/compliance/reporting-concerns] or call 1-855-388-4971. Note: this system is not equipped to handle emergencies. For emergencies, contact the Attending Veterinarian, or others listed above.

Protection & Procedures

- Neither administrative action nor retribution of any kind may be taken against a person making a good faith report of deficiencies. This is in accordance with federal law [9 CFR, Part 2, Subpart C 2.32 (c) (4)].
- Reports of suspected deficiencies should be provided in writing whenever possible and should include, but need not be limited to, the nature of the concern, location of the occurrence, the person or persons involved, the date, the time range, and any supporting facts or materials.

Resulting Actions

- The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will investigate animal welfare allegations reported in good faith, and provide a report to the Institutional Official in a timely manner.
- Allegations and committee reports of deficiencies, findings, or recommendations, as well as administrative or legal actions taken by the committee, are considered privileged information.

Consequences

- Willful mistreatment or abuse of animals may be grounds for suspension of personnel, animal activities, protocols, or other disciplinary actions. Disciplinary action may be appealed through existing institutional procedures.

Policy Availability

- Animal welfare concern reporting procedures will be posted in all OSU animal facilities and available online to ensure access for those involved in animal activities associated with OSU. Further, principal investigators are responsible for assuring that all participants involved with OSU animal activities under their direction are aware of the above procedures.