



## Policy: Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns and Incidents

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. A mechanism for anonymous reporting is also available and described 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 (NSF, NIH) requirements
4. Significant or repeated noncompliance issues with OSU and Animal Care and Use Program Protocols, Policies, Assurances, and Agreements

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.

Contact list for animal welfare concerns:

- IACUC Chair, [Dr. Chrissa Kioussi](#): (541) 737-2179, (541) 602-8505
- Attending Veterinarian, [Dr. Jennifer Sargent](#): (541) 737-6213
- Interim IACUC Administrator, [Robert Gaebel](#): (541) 737-8556
- 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 use OSU's EthicsPoint portal: [oregonstate.ethicspoint.com](http://oregonstate.ethicspoint.com) or call: 1-855-388-4971. This system is **not** equipped to handle emergencies. For emergencies, contact the Attending Veterinarian, or others listed above.

Note that the Attending Veterinarian (AV) is authorized to assess and halt any animal activities or procedures that, per their professional judgement, threaten the health or welfare of animals. As a member of the IACUC, the AV provides a prompt report to the Chair and/or Office.

If there is an emergency, that endangers you or others, call 911 or Public Safety (541) 737-7000 immediately.

### **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 neglect, 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.
- Principal investigators (PIs) are responsible for assuring that all participants involved with OSU animal activities under their direction are aware of the above procedures.