University of Kentucky

Office of the Vice President of Research

Policy on Program for Animal Care and Use

I. Introduction

The University affirms that the prudent use of animals for research, instruction, and biological testing has advanced scientific and medical knowledge, alleviated pain and suffering, and improved the health of both animals and humans. The University supports and protects the officially sanctioned use of animals in carrying out its missions as a public, land-grant research university. The University acknowledges and accepts its legal and ethical responsibility for animals under its care, and is committed to caring for and using animals in ways that are scientifically, medically and humanely appropriate. This policy establishes the policies and procedures governing animal care and use at the University.

The University's program for animal care and use (the Program) encompasses all physical, procedural, medical, and human resources necessary for an integrated and effective program that supports the University's mission.

II. Entities Affected

This policy applies to all members of the University community who participate in research, teaching, and testing activities involving vertebrate animals (animal activities) conducted at University facilities or under University sponsorship, regardless of the species or source of funding.

III. Policy

A. All members of the university community who participate in animal activities must fulfill their individual and collective responsibilities embodied in this policy as a condition for retaining the privilege of working with animals at the University.

B. The University must comply with all applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and with the regulations and standards for implementing the Act promulgated at 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1, 2 and 3 (Animal Welfare Act Regulations or AWAR). The University must follow applicable Animal Care Policies established by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

C. The University must comply with the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy), which incorporates the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training (the US Government Principles).

D. The University maintains a program for animal activities in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide) of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council.

E. The University must adhere to provisions of the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide) published by the American Society of Animal Science.

F. An animal use protocol must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to initiating any animal activity. For sponsored projects involving animal activities, the animal use protocol must be approved before an account will be established.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Institutional Official (IO)

1. The Vice President for Research is designated as the IO, with full authority and responsibility to represent the University on all matters related to animal activities and to legally commit the University to comply with all applicable animal welfare laws, regulations and policies.

2. The IO has full authority to promulgate, implement, and enforce policies across the University to ensure compliance with this policy.

B. Attending Veterinarian

1. The Attending Veterinarian must hold a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or equivalent degree from an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine, be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in at least one state, and be either certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) or have training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine. The Attending Veterinarian reports directly to the Institutional Official and is a permanent voting member of the IACUC.

2. The Attending Veterinarian has full and direct authority to develop and implement an effective program of veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of the Program. This includes the authority to direct or provide for appropriate medical care, including euthanasia, as necessary and consistent with established standards of veterinary medical practice.

3. The Attending Veterinarian may intercede at any time in an animal activity which in their judgment jeopardizes animal welfare or compliance with federal laws and regulations or University policy. This includes the authority to suspend an ongoing animal activity, pending a review by the IACUC acting in full committee.

C. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

1. Membership

(a) The IACUC consists of at least five (5) members who are appointed by the IO. The members must be qualified through expertise and experience to provide oversight for the University's animal care and use program, facilities, and procedures. As a minimum the IACUC must be comprised of:

i. the Chair, who must be a practicing scientist and have significant experience in animal research, has the responsibility for overseeing the coordination and implementation of effective, efficient systems for animal use protocol review, Program review, and facility inspections;

ii. the Attending Veterinarian;

iii. a practicing scientist experienced in animal research;

iv. a nonscientific member whose primary concerns are with nonscientific areas of the Program; and

v. a member who is not affiliated with the University in any way other than as a member of the IACUC, and who does not have an immediate family member* who is affiliated** with the University. This person represents the general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals.

* "Family member" means parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, brothers- and sisters-in-law, mothers- and fathers-in-law, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews, sons- and daughters-in-law, and step-relatives in the same relationships.

** "Affiliated" means any University employment, including part-time and temporary, board membership, currently enrolled students, contractors/vendors who do business with the university, and individuals holding key positions in University-affiliated associations (e.g. Alumni Association, Athletics Board, etc.).

(b) The IO may appoint alternate members to the IACUC consistent with NIH NOT-OD-11-053 and NIH OLAW FAQ B2. The IO may appoint non-voting ex officio members to the IACUC who represent other offices and functions of the University in order to facilitate effective integration of the Program.

(c) To provide for appropriate checks and balances in oversight of the Program, the Institutional Official, the Attending Veterinarian, and the IACUC Chair must be three separate persons.

(d) The IACUC may use consultants, as needed, for specific protocol review or advice to the committee on any aspect of the Program. The consultant may offer options and advice, but may not vote on an animal protocol, amendment thereof, or other aspects of the Program for which a vote is required.

2. Quorum

The total number of voting members of the IACUC necessary to conduct its work is determined by the IO in consultation with the IACUC Chair and the Office of the Attending Veterinarian. A majority (more than 50%) of the voting members must be present at a convened IACUC meeting to constitute a quorum.

3. Multiple IACUCs

(a) The Institutional Official may establish multiple IACUCs if the volume of animal activities exceeds the reasonable capacity of a single IACUC to review the associated protocols and provide timely and effective oversight of the Program.

(b) If multiple IACUCs are established, they must report to a central, all-campus IACUC, the composition of which must include the chairs of the individual IACUCs as members. The overall composition of any IACUC and the all-campus IACUC must conform to federal requirements.

(c) No more than three persons from the same department-level administrative unit (department, center or institute) may serve as members of the same IACUC.

D. The Office of the Attending Veterinarian

The Office of the Attending Veterinarian:

1. Provides administrative support and guidance for the Program and facilitates program integration;

2. Supports the activities of the IACUC, including the scheduling and logistics of IACUC meetings, the

coordination of semiannual program review and facility inspections, and the scheduling and coordination of subcommittee meetings as necessary;

3. Maintains protocol records and correspondence relating to protocol review and approval, records of semiannual program reviews and facility inspections, animal user occupational health and training records, and records of official correspondence between the University and regulatory and oversight agencies;

4. Provides training for IACUC members and research personnel using animals, and serves as a central information resource for the care and use of animals;

5. Facilitates communication between the IACUC, IO, and Attending Veterinarian in meeting their regulatory obligations; and

6. Provides guidance and assists investigators in submitting the necessary documentation for IACUC review of animal use protocols.

E. Principal Investigator

1. Investigators who use animals in research, teaching, or testing have a responsibility to society and the scientific community for the proper stewardship of the animals used. The use of animals at the University is a privilege governed by government regulations, University policy, and public concerns.

2. The principal investigator of an animal care and use protocol is directly responsible for ensuring that personnel listed on the protocol comply with the provisions of this policy.

References and Related Materials

Animal Welfare Act and Regulations

USDA-APHIS Animal Care Policy Manual

Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy)

HHS/NIH/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. National Academies Press (2011)

Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, American Society of Animal Science (4th Edition)

AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition (2020)

The IACUC Handbook (Silverman, Suckow and Murthy, eds.), 3rd Ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2014.