



## RUTGERS POLICY

**Section:** 90.2.1

**Section Title:** Compliance

**Policy Name:** Animal Welfare Policy Governing the Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, Testing and Production

**Formerly Book:** NA

**Approval Authority:** Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Responsible Executive:** Vice President for Research and Economic Development

**Responsible Office:** Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development

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**Errors or changes?** Contact: Office of Research Advancement, 732-445-3831, ext. 213

### 1. **Policy Statement**

This policy applies to all research, teaching, testing or production activities involving vertebrate animals conducted under the auspices of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey at all university locations.

The policy provides the following assurances for all procedures using live vertebrate animals:

- Procedures involving animals should be conducted only when they will contribute to the advancement of knowledge that is likely to lead to improvement of the health and welfare of animals or human beings, provide a better understanding of the animals themselves, or for the good of society.
- Animals involved in any research, teaching, testing or production procedures receive humane care and treatment.
- Animal research is conducted in a well-controlled research environment.
- Concerns regarding the care and use of animals at the university are addressed in a professional and responsible manner.
- Research involving the use of live animals is performed in an ethical manner designed to minimize pain and distress, and comply with applicable regulations.

### 2. **Reason for Policy**

This policy will allow the University to fulfill its ethical obligations to the community at large and its legal obligations to regulatory agencies. It is not intended to limit the freedom of faculty, staff and students, but rather to assist them in conducting research and training of the highest quality, and in adhering to the highest professional standards of their disciplines.

### 3. **Who Should Read This Policy**

Faculty, staff, and students who use live vertebrate animals for research, teaching, testing or production purposes are required to conform to this policy. They should also be familiar with administrative procedures adopted by the University to ensure compliance with the principles of humane animal care and use, and with pertinent laws and regulations.

To ensure compliance, faculty, staff or students, utilizing live vertebrate animals are required to obtain the approval of one of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees prior to such utilization. They are further required to comply with such conditions as may be made by the Committees.

### 4. **Related Documents**

The University shall adhere to the Animal Welfare Act of August 24, 1966 (PL 89-544), as amended by the Act of December 24, 1970 (PL 91-79), the Act of April 22, 1976 (PL 94-279) December 23, 1985 (PL99-198), and to all subsequent revisions thereto. In addition the University shall adhere to applicable policies included in the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Care Policy Manual.

Beyond these legal requirements, and at a minimum, the University shall adhere to the National Institute of Health's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Eighth Edition and all subsequent editions) and to the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

Where agricultural animals are used for research, teaching, testing or production purposes, the University shall adhere to the most recent edition of the Federation of Animal Science Societies' *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (1999, the Third Edition published January, 2010).

### 5. **Contacts**

Office of Research Advancement, 732-445-3831, ext. 213

### 6. **The Policy**

#### **90.2.1 ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY GOVERNING THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH, TEACHING, TESTING AND PRODUCTION**

##### A. Introduction

Through its use of animals in research, teaching, testing or production purposes, Rutgers University incurs certain ethical and legal responsibilities for the humane care and use of those animals. These ethical responsibilities require that faculty, staff and students use care, wisdom and humaneness when deciding on the need for animals, the choice of species, and the number of animals, for research, teaching, testing or production purposes. In order to promote the humane care and use of animals the University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) are charged with the responsibility for ensuring adherence to appropriate University and Federal policies and regulations, and State and local laws. The University contends that well-conducted research with animals has provided, and continues to provide, information, ideas, and applications that can be obtained in no other way. Much medical research produces clear benefits for human health care: Medical advances have contributed substantially to decreased infant mortality and increased life expectancy. In addition, medical and related research also contributes to the quality and length of life for many animals - pets, zoo animals, and wildlife, including endangered species.

Before any work with animals commences, all procedures using live vertebrate animals, whether new, on-going or proposed for funding, and irrespective of the source or presence of funding, whether conducted at the University or elsewhere by faculty in the discharge of their University duties and responsibilities, must be reviewed by one of the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC). This shall include use of animals for research, teaching, testing or production purposes (with the exception of

non-University animals utilized for demonstration purposes by Rutgers Cooperative Extension). IACUCs shall be permitted to make determinations of whether a protocol is required for an activity not clearly involving animal research or teaching.

## B. Principles Regarding the Use of Animals

The University embraces the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training. These are:

- I. The transportation, care, and use of animals should be in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and other applicable Federal laws, guidelines and policies.
- II. Procedures involving animals should be designed and performed with due consideration of their relevance to human or animal health, the advancement of knowledge, or the good of society.
- III. The animals selected for a procedure should be of an appropriate species and quality and the minimum number required to obtain valid results. (The use of statistical models and proper experimental design can help determine the numbers of subjects needed to produce required statistical power. Following such good scientific practice might actually increase the total number of animals used in a project.) Non-animal methods such as mathematical models, computer simulation, and in vitro biological systems should be considered.
- IV. Proper use of animals, including the avoidance or minimizing of discomfort, distress, and pain when consistent with sound scientific practices, is imperative. Unless the contrary is established, investigators should consider that procedures that cause pain or distress in human beings may cause pain or distress in other animals.
- V. Procedures with animals that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia. Surgical or other painful procedures should not be performed on unanesthetized animals paralyzed by chemical agents.
- VI. Animals that would otherwise suffer severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved should be painlessly killed at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.
- VII. The living conditions of animals should be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. Normally, the housing, feeding, and care of all animals used for biomedical purposes must be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied. In any case, veterinary care shall be provided as indicated.
- VIII. Investigators and other personnel shall be appropriately qualified and experienced for conducting procedures on living animals. Adequate arrangements shall be made for their in-service training, including the proper and humane care and use of laboratory animals.
- IX. Where exceptions are required in relation to the provisions of these Principles, the decisions should not rest with the investigators directly concerned but should be made, with due regard to Principle II, by the IACUC. Such exceptions should not be made solely for the purposes of teaching or demonstration.

## C. Mechanisms for Compliance

To ensure consistent policies and procedures across the University, an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) advisory committee may be established to draft, revise and review animal care and use policies, guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for final approval by individual IACUC's. Committee membership may include representatives from administration (Institutional Officials, Research Compliance), the veterinary staff (Attending Veterinarians or designees), IACUC staff (administrators, IACUC chairs), and the Director of Information Technology.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (see footnote) shall be appointed by, and be responsible to, the Executive Office of the President, for monitoring compliance with this policy and with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The President may delegate to the Institutional Official (IO), in writing, the authority to appoint IACUC members. Each time a new President or IO takes office, a new letter shall be written.

The Committees are authorized to:

1. Review at least every six months the University's program for humane care and use of animals, using the Guide as a basis for evaluation;
2. Inspect at least every six months all of the University's animal facilities, including satellite facilities, using the Guide as a basis for evaluation;
3. Prepare reports of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees' evaluations and submit the reports to the Institutional Official;
4. Review concerns involving the care and use of animals at the University;
5. Make recommendations to the Institutional Officials regarding any aspects of the University's animal care program, facilities, or personnel training;
6. Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of those sections of proposed research or instructional protocols related to the care and use of animals according to the following Public Health Service Policy requirements:

Implementation of the US Government Principles:

- a. Procedures with animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals, consistent with solid research design.
  - b. Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals will be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, unless the procedure is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.
  - c. Animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly sacrificed at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.
  - d. The living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding, and non-medical care of the animals will be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied.
  - e. Medical care for animals will be available and provided as necessary by a qualified veterinarian.
  - f. Personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied will be appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.
  - g. Methods of euthanasia used will be consistent with the recommendations of the most recent edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's euthanasia guidelines, unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.
7. Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities; and
  8. Suspend any activity involving animals if it determines that it is not conducted in accordance with the specifications set forth in the Animal Welfare Act, the Guide, or the Rutgers University Assurance. A suspension may occur only after review of the matter at a convened meeting of a quorum of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and with the suspension vote of a majority of the quorum present.
  9. Attending Veterinarians have the authority to stop any animal study that is not being conducted in compliance with the regulations or this policy, or is not described in an approved IACUC protocol, until such time as an IACUC investigation can be conducted as set out in 6.C.8.

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Footnote: In accordance with Federal guidelines, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) shall consist of not less than five members, and shall include: a chairperson; a member who holds a D.V.M. or equivalent degree, with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, who has direct or delegated program responsibility for activities involving animals at the University; a practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals; a member whose primary concerns are in a nonscientific area (for example, an ethicist, lawyer, or member of the clergy); and a member who is neither affiliated with the institution in any way other than as a member of the IACUC nor a member of the immediate family of a person who is affiliated with the University.