

## 15.99.07 Use of Vertebrate Animals

Approved June 11, 2015  
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### Regulation Statement

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The Texas A&M University System (system) is committed to the humane and ethical treatment of vertebrate animals used in research, teaching and testing.

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### Reason for Regulation

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This regulation provides guidance in complying with federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines relating to the humane and ethical use of animals in research, teaching and testing.

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### Procedures and Responsibilities

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#### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 Each member involved with the use of vertebrate animals in research, teaching or testing shall establish a rule for carrying out this regulation.
- 1.2 All animals used in research, teaching or testing regardless of the funding sources, shall be provided humane care and treatment.
- 1.3 Each member must obtain United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) registration or license if required by the Animal Welfare Act.
- 1.4 Each member must obtain a Public Health Service (PHS) Animal Welfare Assurance (Assurance) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) prior to performing any activity supported by PHS involving animals.
- 1.5 The chief executive officer or designee of each member that conducts research, teaching or testing with animals shall establish an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or enter into an agreement with another member with an IACUC.
- 1.6 The Animal Welfare Act (for covered species) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* must be followed when conducting research, teaching or testing activities involving non-agricultural animals and biomedical research activities in agricultural animals.

- 1.7 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* must be followed when conducting research, teaching or testing activities involving agricultural animals intended for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency or for improving the quality of food and fiber.
- 1.8 The use of vertebrate animals within each member, whether for research, teaching or testing purposes, shall be described in an Animal Use Protocol (AUP). The AUP is a form designed to capture relevant information regarding the appropriate use of the vertebrate animals in research, teaching or testing activities.
- 1.9 For each project involving vertebrate animals used in research, teaching or testing, an AUP must be approved by the IACUC.
- 1.10 An approved and current AUP for all vertebrate animal activities must be in place at all times vertebrate animals are housed or used for research, testing or teaching.
- 1.11 All modifications to approved vertebrate animal activities must be approved prior to initiation of the changes.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

- 2.1 The IACUC of institutions with a USDA registration shall be appointed, structured, and shall perform duties and functions as described in the Animal Welfare Act.
- 2.2 The IACUC of institutions with a PHS Assurance shall be appointed, structured, and shall perform duties and functions as described in the documents “Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and Applied Research Ethics National Association/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare “Institutional Care and Use Committee Guidebook.”
- 2.3 The IACUC of institutions conducting research on agricultural animals shall be appointed, structured and shall perform the duties and functions as described in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*.
- 2.4 The IACUC of institutions not required to obtain a USDA or a PHS Assurance shall be appointed, structured, and shall perform duties and functions, with the exception of those activities involving reporting to OLAW, as described in the documents “Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and Applied Research Ethics National Association/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare “Institutional Care and Use Committee Guidebook.”

## 3. USE OF ANIMALS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TEACHING OR TESTING

- 3.1 Use of animals in agricultural research, teaching or testing is overseen by the IACUC. Agricultural research, teaching or testing is defined as research, teaching or testing activities involving horses, and other farm animals, not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber.

3.2 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* must be followed when conducting research, teaching or testing activities involving food and fiber production in agricultural animals.

3.3 When agricultural animals are involved in biomedical research, animal use and compliance must adhere to additional applicable federal guidelines including the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

#### 4. ATTENDING VETERINARIAN

4.1 The Attending Veterinarian(s), or designee(s), shall provide guidance to the campus animal facility managers, animal users, and administrators on current standards for the care and use of animals in teaching, testing and research programs, and shall serve as the Attending Veterinarian of record under the Animal Welfare Act.

4.2 The Attending Veterinarian(s) has direct or delegated authority for activities involving animals at the institution, serves as a voting member of the IACUC and coordinates campus programs for provision of adequate husbandry and veterinary care of research, testing and teaching animals.

#### 5. CARE AND USE OF NON-SYSTEM MEMBER OWNED ANIMALS

Non-member-owned vertebrate animals may not be used by a member's faculty, students, or staff without prior approval of their IACUC. In addition to on-campus activity, this compliance requirement includes, but is not limited to, animal teaching, testing and research conducted:

- (a) in the field by member faculty, students, or staff;
- (b) by member students at other institutions as part of the completion of a degree;
- (c) at another institution as part of a joint contract;
- (d) in off-campus activities involving an undergraduate student as part of the completion of a member's undergraduate course;
- (e) in the teaching of member undergraduate and graduate courses;
- (f) by graduate veterinarians for continuing education; and
- (g) with client-owned animals participating in clinical research studies.

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### **Related Statutes, Policies or Requirements**

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[The Animal Welfare Act \(7 U.S.C. §§ 2131-2159\) and Amendments and the Animal Welfare Regulations \(9 C.F.R.\)](#)

[Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(National Institutes of Health\)](#)

[Health Research Extension Act of 1985](#)

[U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture Animal Care Policies](#)

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## **Definitions**

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Animal – any live vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, teaching, or biological testing or for related purposes.

Animal Care and Use Program – the activities conducted by and at an institution that have a direct impact on the well-being of animals, including animal and veterinary care, policies and procedures, personnel and program management and oversight, occupational health and safety, IACUC functions, and animal facility design and management.

Animal facility – any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments including surgical manipulation.

Animal Welfare Act – Public Law 89-544, 1966, as amended, (P.L. 91-579, P.L. 94-279, and P.L.99-198) 7 U.S.C. 2131 et. Seq. Implementing regulations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1,2, and 3 and are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Attending Veterinarian – the veterinarian responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at the institution.

Institutional Official (IO) – the individual who bears ultimate responsibility for the Animal Welfare Assurance Program and is responsible for resource planning and ensuring alignment of program goals with the university’s mission.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) – an administrative body appointed by and reporting to the Institutional Official in accordance with 9 CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter C, Part 2.31,. P.L. 99-158, and the Health Research Extension Act of 1985. There may be more than one IACUC appointed by the Institutional Official.

Public Health Service Policy – refers to Public Health Service Policy for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (“PHS Policy”) which requires institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing activities conducted and supported by the Public Health Service.

Use of animals – any activity involving vertebrate animals in which the natural life style or movements of the animals is perturbed.

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## **Member Rule Requirements**

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A rule is required to supplement this regulation. See Section 1.1.

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## **Contact Office**

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