Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Clemson University

POLICY #01: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) POLICY
FOR THE USE OF VERTEBRATES

Purpose: The following policy has been developed to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy and to ensure humane use and care of vertebrate animals. The policy applies to all research, teaching, testing and demonstration in which laboratory, wild, or domestic animals are used. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has the responsibility and authority to oversee vertebrate animal use within University-related programs.

LIVE VERTEBRATE ANIMAL USE

1.1 An Animal Use Protocol (AUP) must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to the use of live vertebrate animals in research, teaching, testing or demonstration. This includes training offered by Clemson University.

1.2 All procedures using live vertebrates must be described in the protocol (or referenced to an approved SOP in the protocol). If it is a teaching or training activity, the level of student participation in the procedures (observation, active participation, etc.) must be specified in the protocol.

1.3 Animals can only be procured as specified in an approved protocol. Lab animals must be procured through the Clemson University Office of Animal Resources or their designee. Farm animals must be procured through the Clemson Research Farms Services or their designee.

1.4 If non-university owned domestic animals will be used in University-related research, demonstration, instruction or teaching exercises and contact with University animals is possible, an acceptable health and current vaccination status must be validated by the Attending Veterinarian.

1.5 When live vertebrates are to be used for teaching purposes in the classroom, laboratory, farm, or other setting, the following information should be included in each syllabus:

1.5.1 A statement that live vertebrates will be used, the reason(s) for using live vertebrates in each exercise, when the vertebrates will be used, whether survival or non-survival techniques will be employed, the level of discomfort the animal is likely to experience, and the expected behaviors by the animals before, during, and after treatment.

1.5.2 A statement that the observation and/or handling of live animals is not required of students, but that alternative exercises will be assigned to students that do not wish to participate, and that these alternative exercises will allow students to successfully meet course requirements and objectives.

1.5.3 A statement informing students that the techniques taught and/or demonstrated are designed to be humane, safe, efficient, and involve minimal pain, discomfort, and distress. Further, instructors should inform students which techniques are at or above industry standards, and which techniques are the best and most current available.
1.5.4 A statement that prior to the class or laboratory meeting in which vertebrates will be used, instructions on the proper use and care of study animals will be provided, as will a statement of each student’s responsibility in these exercises. The consequences of neglect or mistreatment of animals by students must be specified.

1.5.5 A statement regarding how to communicate concerns about animal care and use. The names and phone numbers of responsible University officials (i.e., Attending Veterinarian, IACUC Chair) should be provided to students in the event that they observe mistreatment or neglect of animals during any University-related event.

1.5.6 A statement that concerns will be confidential and will not affect the students’ final grade.

DEAD VERTEBRATE ANIMAL USE

2.1. The Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR) definition of an animal includes dead animals. While an AUP is not required for the use of dead animals that are not killed for the express purpose of research, teaching or testing, documentation of the source of the carcass or tissue is required. This source document must contain the following: numbers used, source of carcass and disposition of USDA regulated animals. Records must be kept on file for one year after the use within the department. The use of dead animals for teaching purposes should be stated in the class syllabus.

For training requirements, see IACUC Policy #11.

To determine if an animal use protocol (AUP) is needed for your activity, see IACUC Policy #9.

DEFINITIONS:

Protocol: Refers to “Animal Use Protocol” to be submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Syllabus: Refers to the class syllabus distributed at the beginning of the semester to students enrolled in the class and kept on file in the Department.

"Use" Definition: The use of live animals, includes; custody, care and or manipulation that changes the natural behavior of the animal (IACUC Definition).

Animal Definition AWAR: "Animal means any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit or any other warm-blooded animal, which is being used or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation or exhibition purposes or as a pet. This term excludes: birds, rats of the genus Rattus and mice of the genus Mus bred for use in research and horses not used for research purposes and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs, including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes”.

Animal Definition PHS: Any live, vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes.