POLICY #24: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) POLICY FOR THE REUSE OF RESEARCH ANIMALS

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements for reuse of vertebrate animals that have undergone a previous experimental, testing or demonstrative procedure. This policy has been developed to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy, and to ensure humane care and use of vertebrate animals.

Policy: Transfer from a husbandry, management or breeding protocol to a different husbandry, management, breeding, research, testing, or demonstration protocol where the IACUC has already approved the transfer is excluded from this policy. Protocol-to-protocol transfer of research, testing, demonstration, husbandry, management or breeding animals must be approved in advance by the Attending Veterinarian or the IACUC Administrator if this transfer was not stipulated within both animal use protocols involved in the transfer.

Rational:

While it is a fundamental principle of animal research to refine, replace and reduce animal usage, animal welfare must be considered when applying these principles. Animals which have already been used on a study, especially when the well-being of the animal(s) has been compromised, should not be reused. Examples include, but are not limited to, studies that may result in severe or chronic pain or that cause significant alterations in the animals’ ability to maintain normal physiology, or adequately respond to stressors.