



POLICY ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

Policy Number: 3.0.1

Version Number: 003

Classification: Research Compliance

Effective Date: February 5, 2019

Responsible University Office: Office of Research Compliance

1.0 Purpose

The following policy has been developed to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, other federal agency requirements, guidelines set forth by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), and to ensure the humane care and use of vertebrate animals.

To meet these requirements and ensure adherence to applicable laws and regulations associated with vertebrate animal use, Clemson University has established an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to review all vertebrate animal activities within or associated with the University. This policy describes the responsibilities and authority of this committee. Additionally, this policy demonstrates Clemson University's commitment to assure the public confidence in our care and use of animals.

2.0 Applicability

The policy applies to all University faculty, staff, students, or others engaged in research, teaching, testing, or demonstration activities in which laboratory, wild, or agriculture vertebrate animals are utilized. **Scope:** The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has the responsibility and authority to oversee all vertebrate animal activities conducted on University property and in the field. Research conducted by University faculty, staff, and students at non-University facilities is subject to this policy and to the applicable policies of the facility.

3.0 Government Rules and Regulations

Applicable governmental regulations include the Animal Welfare Act and the Public Health Service Policy. Non-governmental guidance documents include, but are not limited to, guidance set forth by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care International, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching.

4.0 Definitions

Animal Definition (according to the *Animal Welfare Act Regulations*): 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; 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 (according to the *Public Health Service Policy*): Any live, vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes.

Animal Use Protocol (AUP): The document describing proposed animal use that is submitted to and reviewed by the IACUC prior to any animal use activity. AUPs may be approved for up to three years.

Field: The “field” refers to non-University owned locations used by wildlife researchers to collect data related to wildlife or to instruct students in methods related to wildlife research.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC): The University committee created consistent with the requirements of the PHS Policy and AWA to review activities involving vertebrate animal use.

5.0 Policy

This policy establishes the Clemson University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The IACUC is empowered with the responsibility for the oversight, review, and approval of all activities involving the use of laboratory, wild, and agriculture vertebrate animals and institutional compliance with federal, state, and local requirements governing the use of vertebrate animals in research, testing, teaching or demonstration. No animal use may begin without an approved Animal Use Protocol and no animal use may continue on an expired AUP.

Further, the IACUC ensures institutional compliance with federal, state, and local requirements governing the use of vertebrate animals. All University faculty, staff, students, and others, including visiting scientists, companies, and external scientists, engaged in vertebrate animal activities are responsible for the proper, safe, and humane conduct of these activities at Clemson University facilities or in the field. All vertebrate animal activities must be completed in accordance with all applicable elements of this policy, IACUC policies and procedures, the requirements of federal, state, and local authorities, and policies of funding agencies.

5 Responsibilities

Authority and Administration of Policy: The President of the University has the authority to appoint the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Office of Research Compliance is responsible for the administration of IACUC functions.

The Senior Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors will serve as the Institutional Official.

IACUC Membership: Appointments made to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) shall be made in accordance with applicable federal requirements.

Responsibilities of the IACUC include:

- Review and approval of all (vertebrate) animal activities for research, testing, teaching, or demonstration conducted at or in association with Clemson University
- Conduct review of Clemson University's animal care and use program and inspection of all University animal facilities on a semiannual basis, reporting a summary of these reviews to the IO
- Provide applicable reporting on animal use to appropriate regulatory bodies
- Ensure that University animal care and use complies with all federal, state, and local regulations, as well as University policies
- Investigate concerns involving the care and use of animals at Clemson University resulting from public complaints or reports of non-compliance submitted by Clemson University personnel
- Make recommendations to the IO regarding any aspect of Clemson University's animal care and use program, facilities, or personnel training
- Assure and promote the responsible and humane use of animals in

research, teaching, testing, and demonstration.

6 Sanctions for Non-Compliance

The IACUC has the authority to suspend or terminate animal activities deemed not in compliance with governmental regulations or University Policy, as well as withhold funding until compliance is achieved.

7 Approval Signatures

This policy has been approved by:



Tanju Karanfil
Senior Vice President for Research,
Scholarship and Creative Endeavors

12.4.2024
Date

REVISION HISTORY		
EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION NUMBER	MODIFICATION
February 5, 2019	01	Incorporated into VPR Policy Template
January 28, 2021	02	Clarification of Language; combined with former 3.0.5
August 9, 2024	03	Clarification of Language