



RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE ATTENDING VETERINARIAN

Policy Number: 3.0.2

Version Number: 003

Classification: Research Compliance

Effective Date: January 28, 2009

Responsible University Office: Vice President for Research

1.0 Purpose

In order to demonstrate the University's commitment to the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, the Health Research Extension Act, their implementing regulations, and to enable continued accreditation of Clemson University's animal care and use programs and facilities by the Association for Assessment of Laboratory Animal Care, International, this policy establishes the responsibilities and authority of the Attending Veterinarian to carry out his/her duties in accordance with these laws and accreditation standards. Additionally, this policy demonstrates Clemson University's commitment to ensure the public confidence in the University's care and use of animals.

2.0 Applicability

This policy applies to any faculty or staff member serving in the role of Clemson University's Attending Veterinarian.

3.0 Government Rules and Regulations

The relevant regulations identified below outline the authority of the Attending Veterinarian to provide adequate veterinary care of all vertebrate animals used in research, testing, teaching or demonstration. All personnel who use vertebrate animals at or as an agent of Clemson University in research, testing, teaching or demonstration; or provide animal management, animal husbandry or any other aspect of veterinary care, must have a clear understanding of the laws, regulations and standards, as well as University processes, protocols and approved standard operating procedures.

1. Animal Welfare Regulations – CFR TITLE 9 – Animals and Animal Products, Chapter 1. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Subchapter A, United States Department of Agriculture, Part 2, Regulations, Subpart C – Research Facilities, Sec. 2.33 – Attending Veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.
2. Health Research Extension Act of 1985, Public Law 99-158 – Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
3. Clemson University's Assurance of Compliance with Public Health Services Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

4. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Chapter 3, Veterinary Medical Care, commonly referred to as 'The Guide'.
5. Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Agriculture Research and Teaching, Chapter 3, Agricultural Animal Health Care, commonly referred to as 'The Ag-Guide'.
6. Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International, Rules of Accreditation.

4.0 Definitions

Animal: Any live vertebrate animal (and any other animal designated by applicable legislation) used or intended for use in research, testing, teaching or demonstration.

5.0 Policy

The Attending Veterinarian is legally mandated by the relevant regulatory authority listed above to ensure adequate veterinary medical care is provided to all vertebrate animals owned by or located at Clemson teaching and research, agricultural and biomedical farms and facilities. Furthermore, this policy specifically assigns the responsibility and authority to the Attending Veterinarian to develop, implement, administer and oversee all aspects of high quality, university-wide, animal health and well-being, husbandry, veterinary medical and surgical care programs for those vertebrate animals.

In situations where the jurisdiction of the Attending Veterinarian is unclear or disputed, or if lines of communication are disrupted for unforeseen reasons, the authority of the Attending Veterinarian to carry out his/her responsibility will take precedence. This policy assigns authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use to the Attending Veterinarian.

6.0 Responsibilities

Attending Veterinarian: When possible, solicits the input of the Principal Investigator or responsible research staff member(s) prior to implementing treatment or euthanasia of a research animal.

If the responsible Principal Investigator and the Attending Veterinarian are unable to communicate or are not in concurrence regarding the need for animal treatment or euthanasia, the Attending Veterinarian is authorized to implement treatment isolation, euthanasia or other action(s) based on his/her professional medical judgement. The Attending Veterinarian will promptly notify the Principal Investigator, the IACUC, and the Institutional Official (IO) of the action taken.

7.0 Sanctions for Non-Compliance

Clemson University reserves the right to re-assign the Attending Veterinarian or take other personnel action, including dismissal.

8.0 Approval Signatures

This policy has been approved by:



Tanju Karanfil
Vice President for Research

July 1, 2018

Date

REVISION HISTORY		
EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION NUMBER	MODIFICATION
March 31, 2017	01	Update signature
July 1, 2018	02	Clarification of language and reformat of policy
January 28, 2021	03	Clarification of language