Responsibilities and Authority of the Attending Veterinarian

Policy Number: 3.0.2  
Classification: Research Compliance  
Responsible University Office: Office of Research Compliance

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 teaching and research. Compliance with these regulations requires all personnel who use vertebrate animals at Clemson University in research or teaching, or provide animal management, animal husbandry or any other aspect of veterinary care, have a clear understanding of the laws, regulations and standards, as well as University processes, protocols and approved standard operating procedures.


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

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

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 develop implement, administer and oversee all aspects of high quality, university-wide, animal health and well-being, husbandry and veterinary medical and surgical care programs for those vertebrate animals to the Attending Veterinarian.

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

REVISION HISTORY

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<tr>
<td>March 31, 2017</td>
<td>01</td>
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