

Clemson University Research Policies Manual

Responsibilities and Authority of the Attending Veterinarian Approved: January 28, 2009

Updated: March 31, 2017

Subject: Responsibilities and Authority of the Attending Veterinarian

Statement

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 our animal care and use programs and facilities by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation 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 our care and use of animals.

Policy

The Attending Veterinarian is legally mandated by the relevant regulatory authority listed below 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.

Discussion

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.

1. Animal Welfare Regulations - CFR TITLE 9 - Animals and Animal Products, Chapter 1. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Subchapter A, United State 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

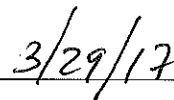
4. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Chapter 3, Veterinary Medical Care, commonly referred to as "The Guide"
5. Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Agriculture Research and Teaching, Chapter 3, Agricultural Animal Health Care, commonly referred to as "The Ag-Guide"
6. Association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

Guidelines Regarding Veterinary Care

1. 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, as stated in the policy above. 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 and any person(s) acting as designee(s) under the authority and/or direction of the Attending Veterinarian.
2. When possible, the Attending Veterinarian will solicit the input of the Principal Investigator or responsible research staff member(s) prior to implementing treatment or euthanasia of a research animal.
3. 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 judgment. The Attending Veterinarian will promptly notify the Principal Investigator, the IACUC, and the Institutional Official (IO) of the action taken.

Approved:

Date:



Vice President for Research and Institutional Official