

# **Clemson University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

## **Policy Number: 1.5**

## **Policy Title: Reporting and Investigating Animal Concerns**

### **Section 1: Purpose**

Animal welfare is the priority of Clemson University's Animal Care Program. Having a culture where animal concerns can be easily and confidentially reported, promptly investigated, and ensuring corrective/preventive actions are taken is essential to the integrity of our program. This document describes the policy and procedures for reporting and investigating animal care and use concerns resulting from:

- noncompliance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures concerning animal welfare
- the conduct of any animal use activity not approved by the IACUC
- the physical, psychological, wrongful, abusive, or negligent treatment of animals.

### **Section 2: Scope**

This policy applies to all IACUC approved animal facilities, animal activities, and personnel working within Clemson's animal program.

### **Section 3: Policy**

Clemson University is committed to the humane treatment of all vertebrate animals used in research and teaching. The privilege to use live animals for the advancement of science and medicine carries with it the responsibility to follow applicable laws, policies, and procedures concerning animal welfare developed by the government and the University.

#### **Whistle Blower Protection**

As stated in the University Whistleblower Policy, no facility employee, committee member, laboratory personnel, or student shall be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for reporting violations in good faith.

#### **Animal Concern Reporting**

Facility personnel, management, or research personnel can address immediate concerns if the complainant is comfortable notifying them.

If the complainant is not comfortable with attempting to address the concern locally or if the concern not adequately addressed after communicating to facility or research personnel, the IACUC may be contacted to investigate the issue.

If an animal is in immediate danger, contact the Attending Veterinarian (AV) to report the situation. The AV, Dr. Matt Breed, can be reached at:

- Office: 864-656-1850
- Cell: 985-789-0416

The AV has the authority delegated by the IO & the IACUC to assess animals, treat animals, remove them from an experiment, institute appropriate measures to relieve pain or distress, or perform euthanasia if necessary.

If the AV determines the concern poses an immediate threat to animal health or welfare, he will address the threat and/or may suspend the activity posing the threat and place the animal(s) under his direct supervision. When the AV places animals under his direct supervision, they are considered under “emergency care” and protocol activities may or may not be allowed to continue. All actions by the AV will be promptly reported to the ORC and IACUC Chair and be included in the veterinary report to the IACUC.

The IACUC can be contacted by:

- email: [iacuc@clermson.edu](mailto:iacuc@clermson.edu)
- [IACUC website, which includes an optional downloadable form: https://www.clemson.edu/research/division-of-research/offices/orc/iacuc/reportconcern.html#what\\_information\\_is\\_needed?](https://www.clemson.edu/research/division-of-research/offices/orc/iacuc/reportconcern.html#what_information_is_needed?)
- phone: 864-656-4538
- mail: 391 College Avenue, Suite 406, Clemson, SC 29631
- Anonymous reporting: <https://www.clemson.edu/research/division-of-research/offices/orc/contact/reportconcern.html>

Reports should include as much information as possible to assist the IACUC in its evaluation of the concern.

An ethics hotline is also available for anonymous reporting of any concerns of misconduct within the University. The hotline can be accessed by calling 1-877-503-7283 (1-877-50FRAUD) or visiting: <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/clemson/IncidentLandingPageV2-Clemson.asp>.

#### **Animal Concern Evaluation Procedure**

1. The individual who received the concern must notify the IACUC if:
  - a. Animal welfare was impacted
  - b. The concern potentially stemmed from noncompliance
  - c. The concern was related to an adverse event (see Policy 1.6)
  - d. The AV suspended an activity, or
  - e. The concern was related to a safety risk to humans or animals
2. All animal care and use concerns will be reviewed by the ORC Director, IACUC Chair, AV, and IACUC Administrator using the flow chart below as a guide. All concerns deemed legitimate will be reported to the IACUC.
3. The PI is notified of the concern and whether the concern is being forwarded to the IACUC. The IACUC will assess in accordance with policy 1.6, *Reporting and Investigating*

*Unexpected Outcomes or Adverse Events*, and/or policy 1.7, *Addressing Non-compliance with IACUC Policies or Procedures*, as appropriate. Any proposed actions assessed during the IACUC's review will be determined by majority vote of a quorum of Committee members.

4. The PI is notified of the outcome of the IACUC's review.

## **Section 4: References**

Clemson University Whistleblower Policy

<https://media.clemson.edu/administration/compliance/whistleblowerpolicy.pdf>

*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Eighth Edition, p. 23-24

## Animal Care and Use Concern Evaluation Flow Chart

