



Policy on Review of Animal Care and Use Protocols at UIUC

Background: Federal regulations require each institution using vertebrate animals in research, teaching or testing to appoint an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) that provides oversight to the animal care and use program. Among other functions, the IACUC is required to review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or withhold approval of animal use activities and significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) fulfills this requirement at the UIUC.

Policy: All research, teaching and demonstration activities involving the use of vertebrate animals (and changes to ongoing activities) conducted at or sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign must receive IACUC approval prior to their initiation. Approval to conduct such activities must be gained by submission of a completed animal care and use protocol (most recent version of form IACUC-1, Information for Review of Activities Involving Animals) for IACUC review. The approval period for a protocol will be for three years from the date of final IACUC approval. Ongoing administrative review of all protocols is required at the first and second anniversaries of the approval. If the activities will continue beyond three years, a new IACUC-1 form must be submitted, reviewed and approved prior to expiration of the approval period. Approval to make changes to an approved protocol must be gained by submission of an amendment to the protocol for IACUC review.

1. **Role of the Principal Investigator:** The principal investigator (PI) is responsible for ensuring that IACUC approval has been secured before any proposed use or changes to approved use of animals occurs. This requires submission of an accurate, complete and appropriately formatted IACUC-1 form or amendment, timely responses to questions posed by the IACUC during the protocol review process, and timely responses to annual review notifications. The PI also is responsible for ensuring that all those working under their direction are knowledgeable regarding the scope of animal use activities for which they are approved.
2. **Role of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee:** The IACUC is responsible for ensuring that the process for reviewing and approving activities involving vertebrate animals meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements. To this end, the IACUC establishes appropriate local policies and procedures for submission, initial and ongoing review, and amending animal care and use protocols. The IACUC works closely with the Division of Animal Resources (DAR) in this regard.

IACUC members are appointed from each of the major academic units in which animal use activities occur. IACUC members function as liaisons between the PI and/or academic unit and full committee.

3. **Role of the Division of Animal Resources** The DAR provides veterinary review of protocols and amendments and consulting and training to investigators regarding the protocol review process.

Reference(s):

- Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Animal Welfare Regulations, 9 CFR, Part 2, Subpart C
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC, 1996
- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, FASS, 1999
- UIUC Policy Governing the Use of Animals in Research (Campus Administrative Manual, Section II - 16)

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