

Animal Use in Research Policy

RP-3

About This Policy

Effective Dates:

01/01/2020

Last Updated:

05/04/2020

Responsible College Administrator:

Assistant Provost for Research and Policy, Office of the Provost, The Citadel

Approving Body:

Office of the Provost through The Citadel Faculty Senate

Policy Contact:

Assistant Provost for Research and Policy, Office of the Provost, The Citadel

Policy Statement (Purpose and Scope)

The purpose of this policy is to support current and future faculty who wish to use vertebrate animals in research and teaching. Regulation of vertebrate animals use for research and teaching is supported by the Animal Welfare Act which is implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The College expects all of its animal facilities and programs to maintain high ethical standards for vertebrate animal care and use, and to be operated in accordance with applicable legal requirements. This policy outlines the principles that govern the humane conduct of vertebrate animal-based activities, ensures legal compliance and establishes roles and responsibilities of those individuals who are involved in the care and use of vertebrate animals in research, teaching and testing.

Policy

It is the policy of the Research Office that use of live vertebrate animals in research and instruction shall conform to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the United States Government and the State of South Carolina. Furthermore, all such research and instruction must be performed in compliance with the highest standards of ethics, practice, and conduct of each of the fields or disciplines involved in each of the specific research projects or instructional activities.

To ensure compliance with regulations regarding the humane care and use of vertebrate animals in research and instruction, the Provost shall appoint an institutional official to appoint the Institutional Vertebrate Animal Care and Use Committee (IVACUC), which meets regulatory requirements and is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the humane care and use of vertebrate animals at the College. The IVACUC is a committee shall consist of no fewer than 5 members and shall include at least:

1. One Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with training/experience in laboratory animal and medicine
2. One practicing scientist experience in research involving animals
3. One individual concerned with nonscientific area (i.e. ethicist)
4. One individual not affiliated with the College

One individual may fulfill more than 1 requirement above but the committee cannot consist of fewer than 5 members.

The IVACUC shall have the responsibility to review and the authority to approve, require modifications to secure approval, or withhold approval of, all research involving vertebrate animal subjects conducted by the College or anyone using College facilities, in accordance with policies and procedures established for this purpose.

The IVACUC, or its staff acting on behalf of the IVACUC, has the authority to inspect research facilities and obtain records and other relevant information relating to projects it has approved. The IVACUC may suspend or terminate approval of projects it has approved and take actions that it deems necessary to ensure compliance with applicable legal requirements and College policies or which have been associated with unexpected serious harm to subjects.

No individual or College committee may approve a project involving the use of vertebrate animals for research, teaching or testing that has not been reviewed and approved by the IVACUC.

IVACUC approval must be received *before* the use of vertebrate animals for research, teaching or testing can commence.

The attending veterinarian has the authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care. This includes the authority to implement vertebrate animal treatment or euthanasia of research vertebrate animals. While all efforts shall be made to contact the responsible research staff member prior to any action, it may be necessary to act prior to contact.

The transportation, care and use of vertebrate animals should be in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act and other applicable legal requirements.

Procedures involving vertebrate animals should be designed and administered with consideration of their relevance to human or animal health, the advancement of knowledge, and the good to society.

The vertebrate animals selected for a procedure should be of an appropriate species and quality and the minimum number required to obtain valid results. Methods such as mathematical models, computer simulation and *in vitro* biological systems should be considered.

Proper use of vertebrate animals, including the avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress and pain, when consistent with sound scientific practices, is imperative. Unless it can be established otherwise, investigators should consider that procedures that cause pain or distress in human beings may cause pain or distress in other vertebrate animals.

Procedures with vertebrate animals that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia or anesthesia, unless the IVACUC has approved a scientifically justified exception.

Humane endpoints should be established.

The living conditions of vertebrate animals should be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding and care of vertebrate animals used for biomedical or agricultural purposes must be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist, trained and experienced in the proper care, handling and use of the species being maintained or studied.

IVACUC approval of exceptions to any standard protocols requires compelling scientific justification and should not be made solely for the purposes of convenience, teaching or demonstration.

The Research Office of The Citadel and the Institutional Vertebrate Animal Care and Use Committee recognize the following regulatory authorities for the care and use of animals:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Animal Care (AC) section of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA is responsible for implementing the regulations and standards promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture under the mandate of the Animal Welfare Act. The regulations define institutional responsibility for assuring compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. The standards set minimal requirements for humane handling, housing, space, feeding, watering, sanitation, ventilation, exercise, and psychological wellbeing of various species. Compliance requirements include annual reporting, application of standards for animal care and use during experimentation, documentation of the number of animals used, and summaries of exceptions granted for scientific necessity. USDA personnel perform unannounced inspections of institutional animal facilities.

The Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). OLAW is responsible for the general administration and coordination of National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy regarding animal care and use. Public Health Service (PHS) awarding units may not make an award for a project involving animals unless the institution submitting the application or proposal is on the list of institutions that have an acceptable animal welfare assurance letter on file with OLAW, and the responsible institutional official has provided verification of approval by the Institutional Vertebrate Animal Care and Use Committee. All records that directly relate to applications, proposals, and proposed changes in ongoing research reviewed and approved by the Vertebrate Animal Care Committee must be maintained for at least three years after completion of the research and must be accessible to OLAW with reasonable notice.

The Research Office of The Citadel and the Institutional Vertebrate Animal Care and Use Committee (IVACUC) further recognize the following guidelines, and any others, which are subsequently officially adopted by the IVACUC, for the care and use of non-laboratory vertebrate animals in research and instruction.

Guidelines for Use of Fishes in Field Research. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH), American Fisheries Society (AFS), and American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists (AIFRB); Fisheries. Available at <http://www.asih.org/pubs/fishguide.html>.

Guidelines for Use of Live Amphibians and Reptiles in Field Research. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH), The Herpetologists' League (HL), and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR). Available at <http://www.asih.org/pubs/herpcoll.html>.

Guidelines for the Use of Wild Birds in Research. Edited by Abbot S. Gaunt & Lewis W. Oring, Special Publication of The Ornithological Council, 1997. Available at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/GuideToUse>.

Guidelines for the Capture, Handling, and Care of Mammals. The American Society of Mammalogists (ASM); 1998. Available at <http://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/commanimalcareuse/98acucguidelines.PDF>.

Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in the Care and Use of Animals. Developed by the American Psychological Association's Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE), 2003. Available at <http://www.apa.org/science/anguide.html>.

Definitions

1. Vertebrate- All species in the phylum Vertebrata generally characterized as having a vertebral column.
2. IVACUC- Institutional Vertebrate Animal Care and Use Committee.
3. USDA- United States Department of Agriculture.
4. Institutional Official (IO)- Provost and Dean of the College.
5. APHIS- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
6. OLAW- Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare.
7. PHS- Public Health Service.
8. ASIH- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.
9. AFS- American Fisheries Society.
10. AIFRB- American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists.
11. HL- Herpetologists' League.
12. ASM- American Society of Mammologists.
13. SSAR- Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.
14. CARE- Committee on Animal Research and Ethics.

Additional Information

1. Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. §§2131 *et seq.*)
2. Animal Welfare Standards (9 CFR parts 1, 2 and 3)
3. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (HHS & NIH)
4. United States Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training
5. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (National Research Council)