

NUMBER: RSCH 5.03 (Formerly ACAF 5.03)  
SECTION: Office of Research  
SUBJECT: Care and Use of Laboratory Animals  
DATE: February 1, 1995  
REVISED: February 5, 2016  
Policy for: All Campuses  
Procedure for: All Campuses  
Authorized by: Vice President for Research  
Issued by: Office of Research

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I. Policy

- A. Dedication to the humane care of animals used in research and teaching is part of the University of South Carolina's (USC) commitment to ethical conduct of research. USC will conduct matters related to animal care and use in compliance with federal and state laws and implementing regulations including, but not limited to, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy), and principles set forth in the *Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*. USC will assure that its faculty, staff, and students understand the importance of humane care and use of animals and will implement practices to prevent injury and illness related to the care and use of animals.
- B. The President will appoint an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) that has the authority to develop policies and implement standard operating procedures (SOP) to assure humane care and use of animals compliant with this policy and applicable laws. The functions of the IACUC mandated by the AWA, PHS Policy, and the *Guide* include, but are not limited to:
1. Semiannual review of the institutional program for animal care and use;
  2. Semiannual inspection of animal facilities and animal-study areas;
  3. Submission of reports of the semiannual evaluations to the responsible Institutional Official (IO);
  4. Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or withhold approval of those components of activities related to the care and use of animals;
  5. Make recommendations to the President, IO, or other designee regarding any aspect of the animal care program, facilities, or personnel training;

6. Suspension of any animal care and use activity that does not comply with standards and approved protocols; and
  7. Review of concerns involving the care and use of animals at USC.
- C. All research and educational activities in the University system involving the care and use of animals must be approved by the IACUC before implementation.
  - D. The IACUC will develop policies and maintain SOPs described elsewhere to enable implementation of the University policy described above. These policies can be found at <http://sam.research.sc.edu/AnimalCare/index.html>.
  - E. USC will maintain an Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) that provides persons covered by this Policy a safe work place. Persons covered by this Policy are advised and encouraged to undergo an assessment of the potential risks and hazards associated with their involvement with animal care and use, including medical risks. Those participating in the program will receive advice and training in procedures to reduce these risks. Injury and illness related to animal care and use are covered in accordance with Worker's Compensation and personal health insurance.
  - F. The University shall provide training for all personnel involved in care and use of animals. Persons are not permitted to be involved in projects involving the care and use of animals until they have been certified as completing appropriate training.

## II. Procedure

Animal Resource Facilities, under the direction of a full-time veterinarian, is responsible for the administration and oversight of animal care at USC. It is the responsibility of the principal investigator or instructor to submit the required information to the IACUC. The Offices of Research Compliance and ARF will maintain all records necessary and file reports as required to be in compliance with applicable federal law and implementing regulations.

## III. Reason for Revision

Policy revised to reflect federal laws governing use of animals in laboratory research.