

IACUC Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

The University of South Carolina recognizes that the use of laboratory animals for teaching and research is fundamental to advances in biology and medicine. The momentum of discovery in the medical, biological and behavioral sciences has steadily increased, and the application of this new knowledge has brought incalculable benefit to society. Laboratory animals have played an indispensable role in these advances, and for the foreseeable future will continue to be essential to the success of our research and training programs.

The University of South Carolina recognizes that laboratory animals are sentient creatures. Their use is a privilege accompanied by an ethical and legal obligation for their humane care and handling. Individuals whose work requires them to use animals in research or instruction must understand and be committed to fulfilling the legal and moral responsibilities of such use.

The University of South Carolina complies with the recommendations of The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2011), the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, and all other applicable statutes and regulations concerning the care and use of laboratory animals.

In accordance with the above, particular care is given to the following:

1. All animals used at the University of South Carolina are lawfully acquired.
2. All animals at USC will be treated humanely, properly fed and cared for, and their surroundings kept in a sanitary condition.
3. Anesthetics and analgesics appropriate to the experimental design will be used to eliminate unnecessary pain or distress during scientific procedures. The post-operative care of animals shall be such as to minimize discomfort and pain.
4. Investigators preparing proposals will consider alternative methods which reduce or eliminate the use of animals. When animals are necessary the animals selected for a procedure should be of an appropriate species and the minimum number required to obtain valid results.
5. Students using animals for their education in the advancement of science shall work under the direct supervision of an experienced teacher or investigator.
6. At the conclusion of the observations, if euthanasia is necessary, only methods approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee may be used.
7. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, composed of experienced scientists, professional staff, and individuals not affiliated with the University and representing community concerns, meets on a regular basis and reviews the policy pertaining to laboratory animal use at the University of South Carolina.