

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</b> RSCH Office of Research		<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> RSCH 5.03
<b>POLICY TITLE</b> Care and Use of Laboratory Animals		
<b>SCOPE OF POLICY</b> USC System	<b>DATE OF REVISION</b> August 18, 2022	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> Vice President for Research	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</b> Office of Research	

**PURPOSE**

To ensure the humane care and use of animals used in sponsored and unsponsored research and academic activities by establishing the authority and responsibilities of the University, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and Principal Investigators.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide):** assist institutions in caring for and using animals in ways judged to be scientifically, technically, and humanely appropriate. The Guide is also intended to assist investigators in fulfilling their obligation to plan and conduct animal experiments in accord with the highest scientific, humane, and ethical principles.

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC):** Responsible for oversight of the animal care and use program and its components as described in the Public Health Service (PHS) [Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), the [Animal Welfare Act](#) and [Animal Welfare Regulations](#) and the [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#). Its oversight functions include an ongoing assessment of animal care and use.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Dedication to the humane care of animals used in research and teaching is part of the University of South Carolina’s commitment to ethical conduct of research. The university 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. The university 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.

**PROCEDURES**

- A. 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.
- B. All research and educational activities in the university system involving the care and use of animals must be approved by the IACUC before implementation.
- C. 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 [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/research\\_compliance/iacuc/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/research_compliance/iacuc/index.php).
- D. USC will maintain an Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) that provides persons covered by this Policy a safe workplace. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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 follow applicable federal law and implementing regulations.

#### **RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES**

[Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#)

[Cell Line Use in Live Animals](#)

[Euthanasia of Laboratory Animals](#)

[Evaluation of AUPs with Genetically Modified Animals](#)

[Food and Water Restriction of Animals](#)

[Freund's Adjuvant Use in Laboratory Animals](#)  
[Housing Density](#)  
[Housing of Aquatic Species](#)  
[Humane Endpoints in Animal Use Proposals](#)  
[Importation of Rodents](#)  
[Inspection of USC Animal Facilities by Non-USC Personnel](#)  
[Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee](#)  
[Use of Expired Material and Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Drugs](#)  
[Multiple Survival Surgery Procedures](#)  
[Non-Human Primates](#)  
[Physical Restraint of Animals](#)  
[Post Approval Monitoring](#)  
[Quarantine and Stabilization of Animals](#)  
[Reporting Concerns about the Use of Laboratory Animals](#)  
[Review of Animal Use Proposals](#)  
[Reviewing Significant Changes to Animal Use Proposals](#)  
[Rodent Survival Surgery](#)  
[Service Animal Use](#)  
[Social Housing and Environmental Enrichment](#)  
[Sterilization of Instruments and Supplies for Aseptic Surgery Procedures](#)  
[Training Personnel for Laboratory Animal Use or Care](#)  
[Use of Volatile Anesthetics](#)

**HISTORY OF REVISIONS**

<b>DATE OF REVISION</b>	<b>REASON FOR REVISION</b>
February 1, 1995	New policy approval
February 5, 2016	Policy revised to reflect federal laws governing use of animals in laboratory research
August 18, 2022	Policy updated to standard template.