

POLICY ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING

PREAMBLE

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette recognizes the importance of the use of animals in its research and teaching programs. Animals are vital both for understanding basic biological processes and in developing treatment for human and animal diseases.

The University, committed to maintaining high standards for the care and use of animals in research and teaching, therefore adopts as its own principles the "US Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training".

The University, including its investigators and researchers, accepts responsibility for determining that research and teaching involving the use of animals fulfill these principles.

POLICY ON APPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

It is University policy that University practices for the procurement, housing, care, and use of animals should conform to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals in Research, 1996 or succeeding editions, all requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and all regulations issued by the USDA implementing the Animal Welfare Act (P.L. 89-544) as amended. The President, Vice President for Research, Institutional Official or Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs shall take appropriate action to meet such standards. The policy applies to all research and teaching irrespective of whether the research is funded from extramural or internal sources.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE

The Vice President for Research, Institutional Official and Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs are responsible for compliance with this policy in the institution. They are authorized to take appropriate action for those activities under their jurisdiction to implement regulations required by all funding and regulatory agencies on the care and use of animals in research and teaching. The Vice President for Research shall establish and implement procedures, including appointment of an animal care and use committee to assure adequate review of animal facilities, procedures, research, and teaching protocols.

The committee shall consist of no fewer than five members with varying backgrounds. At least one member shall be a licensed doctor of veterinary

medicine and at least one member shall be a person whose primary vocation is in a nonscientific area. One member shall be unaffiliated with the institution.

ACCREDITATION

Non-human primate facilities shall be fully accredited by the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) or the Vice President for Research shall be taking appropriate action to achieve such accreditation.

RESPONSIBILITY IN OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

The Vice President for Research is responsible, on behalf of the President, for assuring University compliance with the policy and for developing any modifications or exceptions to policy as appropriate.

U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training

The development of knowledge necessary for the improvement of the health and well-being of humans as well as other animals requires in vivo experimentation with a wide variety of animal species. Whenever U.S. Government agencies develop requirements for testing, research, or training procedures involving the use of vertebrate animals, the following principles shall be considered; and whenever these agencies actually perform or sponsor such procedures, the responsible Institutional Official shall ensure that these principles are adhered to:

- I.** The transportation, care, and use of animals should be in accordance with the [Animal Welfare Act \(7 U.S.C. 2131 et. seq.\)](#) and other applicable Federal laws, guidelines, and policies.*
- II.** Procedures involving animals should be designed and performed with due consideration of their relevance to human or animal health, the advancement of knowledge, or the good of society.
- III.** The 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.
- IV.** Proper use of animals, including the avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress, and pain when consistent with sound scientific practices, is imperative. Unless the contrary is established, investigators should consider that procedures that cause pain or distress in human beings may cause pain or distress in other animals.
- V.** Procedures with animals that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia.

Surgical or other painful procedures should not be performed on unanesthetized animals paralyzed by chemical agents.

VI. Animals that would otherwise suffer severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved should be painlessly killed at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.

VII. The living conditions of animals should be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. Normally, the housing, feeding, and care of all animals used for biomedical 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. In any case, veterinary care shall be provided as indicated.

VIII. Investigators and other personnel shall be appropriately qualified and experienced for conducting procedures on living animals. Adequate arrangements shall be made for their in-service training, including the proper and humane care and use of laboratory animals.

IX. Where exceptions are required in relation to the provisions of these Principles, the decisions should not rest with the investigators directly concerned but should be made, with due regard to Principle II, by an appropriate review group such as an institutional animal care and use committee. Such exceptions should not be made solely for the purposes of teaching or demonstration.

*For guidance throughout these Principles, the reader is referred to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals prepared by the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Academy of Sciences. (Note from OLAW)