



Rule

15.99.07.L1 Use of Vertebrate Animals

First Approved: November 13, 2013 (formerly *SAP 15.99.05.L1 Institutional Care and Use*)
Revised: May 5, 2016
September 16, 2021
April 13, 2026
Next Scheduled Review: April 13, 2031

Rule Statement and Reason for Rule

Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) acknowledges the significance of animal research for human, animal, and environmental health. It is dedicated to the humane and ethical treatment of vertebrate animals used in research, teaching, and testing in compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and guidelines.

This rule applies to all employees and students who use vertebrate animals in research, teaching, or testing and all employees and students who care for vertebrate animals owned by TAMIU but are not involved in these activities.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1.1 Responsibilities

- 1.1.1 All vertebrate animals, including those not owned by TAMIU that are used for research, teaching, or testing, must receive humane care and treatment, regardless of funding sources, as this rule outlines. TAMIU will also ensure proper husbandry and veterinary care for vertebrate animals owned by the institution but not involved in research, teaching, or testing.
- 1.1.2 The President has appointed the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to serve as the Institutional Official (IO) with administrative authority to commit institutional resources to ensure that the vertebrate animal care and use program will comply with applicable state and federal requirements.

- 1.1.3 The President has granted the IO authority to appoint and remove members of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or to enter into an agreement with another System member with an IACUC for IACUC services.
- 1.1.4 The IO must appoint an Attending Veterinarian (AV), which may include entering into an agreement with another System member to utilize that member's Attending Veterinarian's services.
 - 1.1.4.1 The AV or their designee(s) offers guidance to campus animal facility managers, animal users, and administrators on the current standards for the care and use of animals in research, teaching, and testing programs. The AV holds direct or delegated authority for activities involving animals at TAMIU, acts as a voting member of the IACUC(s), and coordinates campus programs to ensure adequate husbandry and veterinary care for research, teaching, and testing animals.
- 1.1.5 Before conducting any activities, a registration or license from the USDA will be obtained if required by the Animal Welfare Act.
- 1.1.6 A PHS Animal Welfare Assurance from the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) will be obtained before performing any activity involving animals supported by PHS, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation, the Veterans Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or another sponsor with a memorandum of understanding with PHS.
- 1.1.7 TAMIU will establish suitable interinstitutional agreements before participating in collaborative animal research conducted at locations outside of TAMIU, including companies and other entities.
- 1.1.8 TAMIU maintains an occupational health and safety program for individuals working with and around animals used in research, teaching, and testing. The program follows the relevant requirements for an Occupational Health and Safety Program as found in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research, and Testing*, and *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals*.
- 1.1.9 Responsibilities of the Principal Investigator (PI) Principal investigators (PI) are responsible for compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations involving activities covered by this rule and are responsible for:
 - 1.1.9.1 Assuring that animal work is appropriately reviewed and approved prior to initiation of any activities or changes to approved activities. Regardless of funding source, an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) involving the use of animals in research, teaching, or testing must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to the initiation of any animal work. If research is collaborative or involves other institutions, approval must be obtained from each institution as appropriate.
 - 1.1.9.2 Assuring that conduct of animal research, teaching, or testing activities is restricted to the animal activities described in the approved AUP or approved amendments and is in congruence with funding grants, if applicable.

- 1.1.9.3 Assuring that all participants in animal activities are appropriately qualified through training and education to perform their responsibilities as listed in the AUP.
- 1.1.9.4 Assuring that all participants in animal activities are enrolled in an Occupational Health and Safety program.
- 1.1.9.5 Assuring that the appropriate safety committees approve all animal activities involving hazardous and biohazardous activities.
- 1.1.9.6 Abiding by all requirements and decisions made by the IACUC regarding the protocol.
- 1.1.9.7 Notifying the IACUC as soon as possible after discovering any incident involving adverse events relating to the care or use of animals covered by this rule, including reporting any animal concerns or non-compliance.

1.2 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

TAMIU expects all employees and other persons participating in TAMIU research projects and/or support activities to be responsible for compliance stated and described in section 1.2, Compliance Requirements in System Regulation *15.99.07, Use of Vertebrate Animals*.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

- 2.1 The IACUC's membership must be appointed and structured. Members must perform the duties and functions described in the applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines. TAMIU will defer to the strictest regulatory requirements when deciding IACUC membership, as appropriate.
- 2.2 The IACUC must be appointed by and report to the IO.
- 2.3 The use of vertebrate animals, whether for research, teaching, or testing purposes, must be described in the AUP according to the applicable compliance requirements in Section 1.2 above. The AUP is designed to capture relevant information regarding the appropriate use of vertebrate animals in research, teaching, or testing activities.
 - 2.3.1 For each project involving animals used in research, teaching, or testing, an AUP must be approved by the IACUC prior to initiation.
 - 2.3.2 An approved and current AUP for all animal activities must be in place before ordering and housing animals.
 - 2.3.3 All modifications to approved animal activities must be approved prior to initiation of the changes.
 - 2.3.4 The IACUC(s) may approve, disapprove, or request modifications of AUPs. The IACUC(s) may also suspend a previously approved research, teaching, or testing activity covered by this rule for non-compliance with protocol description or if it is otherwise non-compliant. The IACUC has full authority to enter any areas where animals are used or housed for research, teaching, or testing to ensure compliance. A decision by the IACUC not to approve research, teaching, or testing may not be overridden by the IO.

- 2.3.5 A member's IACUC may not serve as another institution's IACUC without an appropriately executed agreement describing the relationship, including acceptance of the member's IO.

3. PRIVATELY OWNED ANIMALS

- 3.1 Privately owned vertebrate animals, such as pets, may not be used by TAMIU faculty, students, or staff in research, teaching, or testing without prior approval of the IACUC.
- 3.2 TAMIU must ensure proper animal husbandry and veterinary care for privately owned research animals housed in their facilities when not used for research, teaching, or testing.

4. REPORTING

- 4.1 The IO is responsible for ensuring prompt notification to governmental authorities after the discovery of any incident that requires notification.
- 4.2 Anyone aware of potential violations of existing animal care and use regulations or observes misuse or mistreatment of animals is strongly encouraged to report their concerns to the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian, or the IO. Concerns may also be reported anonymously via EthicsPoint (<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/19681/index.html>), the risk, fraud, and misconduct reporting system online or by phone at 1-800-892-8348.
- 4.3 All allegations of mistreatment or non-compliance will be taken seriously and investigated by the IACUC. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible, appropriate, and permissible under the law. No employee or student of TAMIU or another institution will be discriminated against or subject to any reprisal for good faith reporting of actual or potential violations.

Related Statutes, Policies, Regulations, or SAPs

[American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals, Current Version](#)

[The Animal Welfare Act \(7 U.S.C. §§ 2131-2159\) and Amendments and the Animal Welfare Regulations \(9 C.F.R.\)](#)

[Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(National Institutes of Health\), Current Version](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, Current Version](#)

[Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council. 1997. *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals*. National Academies Press.](#)

[Health Research Extension Act of 1985](#)

[U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Current Version](#)

Definitions

Attending Veterinarian – The veterinarian with direct authority to oversee the health and well-being of all animals used for research, teaching, and testing (including production or maintenance of animals in support of those activities) at the institution.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) – a committee appointed by the chief executive officer or their designee (when the responsibility is delegated in writing) and reporting to the Institutional Official responsible for approving protocols for animal research, testing, or teaching and overseeing an institution’s animal research program.

Institutional Official (IO) – The individual who bears ultimate responsibility for the Animal Care and Use Program and is responsible for regulatory compliance, resource planning, and ensuring alignment of program goals with TAMIU’s mission. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is TAMIU’s Institutional Official for purposes of this rule.

Contact Office

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