



# 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  
**Next Scheduled Review:** September 16, 2026

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### Rule Statement and Reason for Rule

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Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) is committed 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.

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### Procedures and Responsibilities

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#### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 All vertebrate animals, including animals not owned by TAMIU used in research, teaching or testing regardless of the funding sources, fall within the scope of this Rule and must be provided humane care and treatment.
- 1.2 In addition to on-campus activities, this Rule includes animal teaching, testing, and research conducted as follows:
  - 1.2.1 in the field by TAMIU faculty, students, or staff;
  - 1.2.2 by TAMIU students at other institutions as part of the completion of a degree;
  - 1.2.3 at another institution as part of a joint contract;
  - 1.2.4 in off-campus activities involving an undergraduate student as part of the completion of a TAMIU undergraduate course;

- 1.2.5 in the teaching of TAMU undergraduate and graduate courses;
  - 1.2.6 by graduate veterinarians for continuing education; and
  - 1.2.7 with client-owned animals participating in clinical research studies.
- 1.3 A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) registration or license will be obtained prior to performing any activity subject to the Animal Welfare Act.
- 1.4 A Public Health Service (PHS) Animal Welfare Assurance (Assurance) from the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) will be obtained prior to performing any activity supported by PHS, the National Science Foundation, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration involving animals.
- 1.5 If TAMU is not required by federal regulations to register with the USDA and/or obtain an Assurance from OLAW, it will adhere to the following:
- 1.5.1 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* when conducting research, teaching, or testing activities involving non-agricultural animals and biomedical research activities in agricultural animals and;
  - 1.5.2 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* when conducting research, teaching, or testing activities involving agricultural animals intended for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency or for improving the quality of food and fiber. Additionally, Chapter 2, *Animal Care and Use Program*, of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* must be followed.
- 1.6 The President or designee must establish an Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee (IACUC) or enter into an agreement with another member with an IACUC.
- 1.7 The use of vertebrate animals, whether for research, teaching, or testing purposes, must be described in an Animal Use Protocol (AUP). The AUP is a form designed to capture relevant information regarding the appropriate use of the animals in research, teaching, or testing activities.
- 1.7.1 For each project involving animals used in research, teaching, or testing, an AUP must be approved by the IACUC.
  - 1.7.2 An approved and current AUP for all animal activities must be in place at all times animals are housed or used for research, testing, or teaching.
  - 1.7.3 All modifications to approved animal activities must be approved prior to initiation of the changes.

## **2. INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL (IO)**

- 2.1 The President has appointed the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs to serve as the Institutional Official (IO) with administrative authority to commit institutional resources to ensure that the animal care and use program will comply with state and federal requirements.
- 2.2 As IO, the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs executes the USDA registration(s), PHS assurance(s), and reports submitted to these agencies as required.

- 2.3 The IO has been delegated authority by the President to appoint and remove members of the IACUC(s).

### **3. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)**

- 3.1 The IACUC must be appointed, structured, and must perform duties and functions as set forth in the most current version of the documents referenced at the end of this Rule or other applicable documents promulgated by relevant government agencies.
- 3.2 The IACUC must be appointed by and report to the IO. There may be more than one IACUC appointed by and reporting to the IO.
- 3.3 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 in non-compliance. The IACUC must have 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.
- 3.4 The IACUC must carry out all of those duties specifically assigned to it in government regulations and policies. In addition to duties mandated in government regulations and policies, the IACUC(s) must review all aspects of the program for the humane care and use of animals including short-term and long-term goals, and regulations and procedures pertaining to animal care and use.

### **4. USE OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TEACHING, OR TESTING**

- 4.1 Use of vertebrate animals in agricultural research, teaching, or testing is overseen by the IACUC. Agricultural research, teaching, or testing is defined as research, teaching, or testing activities involving horses, and other farm animals, not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. TAMU must follow the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* when conducting research, teaching, or testing activities involving food and fiber production in agricultural animals.
- 4.2 When agricultural animals are involved in biomedical research, animal use and compliance must adhere to additional applicable federal guidelines.

### **5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)**

- 5.1 Principal investigators (PI) are primarily responsible for compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations involving activities covered by this Rule and are responsible for:
  - 5.1.1 assuring that animal work is appropriately reviewed and approved prior to initiation of any activities or changes to approved activities. Regardless of funding sources, an AUP involving the use of animals in research, teaching, or testing must be prepared and signed by the PI and must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC. If research is collaborative or involves other institutions, approval must be obtained from each institution.

- 5.1.2 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.
- 5.1.3 assuring that all participants in animal activities are appropriately qualified through training and education to perform their responsibilities as listed in the AUP.
- 5.1.4 assuring that all participants in animal activities are enrolled in an Occupational Health and Safety program.
- 5.1.5 assuring that all animal activities involving hazardous and biohazardous activities are approved by the appropriate safety committees.
- 5.1.6 abiding by all determinations of the IACUC, including, but not limited to, directives to terminate participation in designated research, teaching, or testing activities;
- 5.1.7 notifying the IACUC as soon as possible after the discovery of any incident that involves adverse events relating to the care or use of animals covered by this Rule, including reporting any animal concerns or non-compliance.

## **6. ATTENDING VETERINARIAN**

- 6.1 The attending veterinarian(s), or designee(s), provides guidance to the campus animal facility managers, animal users, and administrators on current standards for the care and use of animals in research, teaching, and testing programs, and serves as the attending veterinarian of record under the Animal Welfare Act.
- 6.2 The attending veterinarian(s) has direct or delegated authority for activities involving animals at TAMIU, serves as a voting member of the IACUC(s), and coordinates campus programs for the provision of adequate husbandry and veterinary care of research, teaching, and testing animals.

## **7. REPORTING**

- 7.1 The IO is responsible for ensuring the prompt notification to governmental authorities after the discovery of any incident that requires notification to the IACUC, OLAW, USDA, or other governmental authority with respect to the care or use of animals that are involved in research, teaching, or testing activities covered by this Rule.
- 7.2 Anyone who is aware of potential violations to existing animal care and use regulations or observes misuse or mistreatment of animals are strongly encouraged to report their concerns to the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian, or to the IO. Concerns may also be reported anonymously to the risk, fraud, and misconduct reporting system called [EthicsPoint](#), via online or by phone at 1-888-501-3850.
- 7.3 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 shall be discriminated against or subject to any reprisal for good faith reporting of actual or potential violations.

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## Related Statutes, Policies, Regulations, or SAP's

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

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

[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](#)

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

[U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Inspection Guide](#)

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## Definitions

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**Animal** – Any live vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, teaching, or biological testing or for related purposes.

**Animal Facility** – Any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments including surgical manipulation.

**Animal Welfare Act** – Public Law 89-544, 1966, as amended, (P.L. 91-579, P.L. 94-279, and P.L. 99-198) 7 U.S.C. 2131 et. Seq. Implementing regulations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, Chapter 1, Sub-Chapter A, Parts 1, 2, and 3 and are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Attending Veterinarian** – The veterinarian responsible for 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)** – An administrative body appointed by the chief executive officer or Institutional Official (when responsibility is delegated in writing) and reporting to the Institutional Official - in accordance with 9 CFR Chapter 1, Sub-Chapter C, Part 2.31, P.L. 99-158, and the Health Research Extension Act of 1985. There may be more than one IACUC appointed by the Institutional Official.

**Institutional Official (IO)** – The individual who bears ultimate responsibility for the Animal Care and Use Program and is responsible for resource planning and ensuring alignment of program goals with TAMIU's mission. The Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is TAMIU's Institutional Official for purposes of this Rule.

**Non-Compliance** – failure to comply with state and federal regulations, system policies or regulations, university rules or procedures, IACUC procedures or the requirements to conduct research, teaching or testing using animals.

**Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals** – Requires institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing activities conducted and supported by the Public Health Service.

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## Contact Office

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Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, 956-326-3221