

UNIVERSITY SENATE

THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

University Policy for Research and Educational Activities
Involving Animal Subjects

INTRODUCED BY: Council on Research
Date: March 24, 1988

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

- I. That the attached policy for research and educational activities involving animal subjects be approved.
- II. That this resolution be referred to the President for his approval.

rationale:

The care and use of animal subjects in research and educational activities is governed by federal and state regulations, professional standards of ethical conduct, and University policy. In light of revisions in the relevant federal regulations, the University has undertaken an intensive examination and reorganization of its laboratory animal care and use program. The proposed revised policy is designed to ensure that laboratory animals under the auspices of the University are maintained and used in a humane manner and that the University is in compliance with federal and state regulations.

University Policy for Research and Educational Activities
Involving Animal Subjects

I. Guiding Principles

- A. In conjunction with its instruction and research missions, the University at Albany acquires, maintains, and utilizes a number of species of animals. Although state and federal compliance requirements pertain specifically to living vertebrate animals, the University is committed to the humane care and use of all non-human species in all research and educational activities conducted under its auspices.
- B. Any project or activity involving animals must have as its purpose the expansion of scientific knowledge and professional skills and must meet high standards of scientific merit and performance.
- C. With respect to animal care and use the University accepts the responsibility for compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- D. The University is guided by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NIH) in its most recent edition. University faculty, students, and staff engaged in or responsible for activities involving animals are expected to be cognizant of and adhere to the policies set forth in the NIH Guide and in this document.

II. University Administration Responsibilities

- A. The President of the University has delegated administrative responsibility for the University's laboratory animal care and use program to the Vice President for Research. In addition, the Vice President represents the University to external regulatory bodies, and is responsible for filing all required assurances, reports, and registrations.
- B. The Director of Laboratory Animal Services, who reports to the Vice President for Research, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the University's laboratory animal care program. The Director also has administrative responsibility for the Animal Welfare Committee.
- C. The University's Consulting Veterinarian reports to the Vice President for Research and serves as advisor on all veterinary matters at the University at Albany.

The Consulting Veterinarian is responsible for the health and welfare of laboratory animals under the University's care and has the authority to exercise professional judgment in these matters. Concerns regarding the Veterinarian's decisions will be referred to the Animal Welfare Committee for a recommendation to the Vice President for Research for final determination.

II. Animal Welfare Committee Composition and Responsibilities

- A. For the purposes of ensuring the humane use of animals, and in compliance with federal and state regulations, the President of the University, in consultation with the Vice President for Research and the Council on Research, appoints a committee on animal care and use (Animal Welfare Committee).
- B. No live vertebrate animals shall be used in any research or educational activity under the auspices of the University without prior review and approval by the Animal Welfare Committee.
- C. The Animal Welfare Committee is comprised of at least five members who collectively possess expertise to assess the appropriateness of animal use in education and research. At least one member must be a veterinarian with experience in laboratory animal science and medicine; at least one member shall be a University scientist with experience in research involving animals; and at least one member shall be unaffiliated with the University.
- D. Basing its decisions on the principles of humane use of animals, as well as the provisions of the NIH Guide, the Animal Welfare Committee is authorized to review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval from all proposals for the use of vertebrate animals in all University research and teaching activities, regardless of the source of funding. The Committee is authorized to suspend any activity involving animals if it determines that the activity is not being conducted in accordance with the NIH Guide, federal or state regulations, or this policy.
- E. If the Committee suspends an activity involving animals, the Vice President for Research, in consultation with the Committee, and, where appropriate, the Research Foundation, shall review the reasons for suspension, take appropriate action, and notify relevant governmental agencies in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.
- F. Activities that have been approved by the Animal Welfare Committee may be subject to further appropriate review and approval by officials of the University. However, those officials may not approve an activity involving the care and use of animals if it has not been approved by the Committee.
- G. Non-compliance with the provisions of this policy or with the decisions of the Animal Welfare Committee shall be referred to the Vice President for Research for appropriate action. Such action may include suspension or termination of the privilege of using animals in research or educational activities. Repeated and willful failure to comply will be considered under the University's procedures for investigating misconduct in scholarly activity.

- H. The Committee makes recommendations to the Vice President for Research regarding requests for exceptions to standard animal care procedures that are required for scientific or educational reasons and also regarding questions concerning the decisions of the Consulting Veterinarian.
- I. The Committee inspects all of the University's animal facilities and reviews the University's laboratory animal program at least semi-annually for compliance with the NIH Guide. The Committee submits written reports on inspections, evaluations, non-compliances, and corrective actions taken or recommended to the Vice President for Research.
- J. In consultation with the Council on Research and with approval of the Vice President for Research, the Committee adopts appropriate procedures that comply with federal and state regulations, including guidelines and procedures for expedited proposal review.

IV. Project Supervisor Responsibilities

- A. Any project or activity involving animals of any species, for either research or instruction, must be conducted by or under the immediate supervision of a faculty member who is designated as the project supervisor.
- B. In conducting animal research and teaching activities, the project supervisor must:
 - 1. adhere to guidelines and procedures set forth by the Laboratory Animal Care Program,
 - 2. ensure that all project personnel have been instructed about the requirements of humane animal care and use, and
 - 3. ensure that the animals are used and cared for in compliance with University policies, federal and state regulations, and funding agency guidelines.
- C. Before undertaking any activity involving vertebrate animals, the project supervisor must submit a proposal regarding animal care and use to the University's Animal Welfare Committee. The activity cannot begin until and unless Committee approval is obtained.

V. Laboratory Animal Care Program Organization and Responsibilities

- A. Under the direction of the Director of Laboratory Animal Services, the laboratory animal care program ensures appropriate housing, maintenance, veterinary care and diagnostic support for all teaching and research using vertebrate animals, including provision for emergency animal care.

- B. Recommendations concerning policies and procedures of the laboratory animal care program are provided by the Animal Services Advisory Committee that is chaired by the Director and includes the Consulting Veterinarian, the Chair and the Associate Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee (as designated in the Committee's by-laws).
- C. The laboratory animal care program has authority over all vertebrate animals used in any University research or teaching activity. No vertebrate animals may be purchased or maintained without the approval of the Director of Laboratory Animal Services.
- D. The laboratory animal care program operates and controls facilities for housing vertebrate animals used in University research and teaching.
 - 1. These facilities are the only authorized areas in the University for housing and caring of vertebrate animals.
 - 2. The University's Consulting Veterinarian shall ensure that the facilities are operated according to standard procedures which meet or exceed appropriate veterinary standards and are consistent with the NIH Guide.
 - 3. Access to the animal facilities is limited to authorized individuals only. Although the University wishes to be open with regard to the care and use of animals, access to the animal facilities must be limited to protect the health and welfare of the animals, public health, and the integrity of the research enterprise. Free access to the animal facilities would expose the animals to possible disease and stress, increase the likelihood of the spread of zoonotic disease to the public, and seriously disrupt ongoing research.
 - a. Individuals authorized to have access to the animal facilities include: 1) faculty and students conducting approved scientific and educational activities involving animal subjects; 2) individuals charged with the care of animals and the maintenance of the animal facilities; and 3) members of the administration and the Animal Welfare Committee responsible for the care and use of animals.
 - b. Other individuals who wish access to the animal facilities must have prior approval from the Director of Laboratory Animal Services. In the event that the Director is unavailable, approval may be obtained from the Chair or , if necessary, the Associate Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee. In emergency situations, access may be approved by the Facility Supervisor.

- c. All individuals entering the animal facilities must comply with all health and safety standards prescribed by the Animal Welfare Committee. Individuals granted access under Provision V.C.3.b, above, will be accompanied by a person or persons designated by the Director to ensure compliance with these standards.
- d. These provisions do not apply to the inspection of the animal facilities by governmental agencies with regulatory oversight of the care and use of animals at the University at Albany, or to access to the animal facilities by police, fire, medical, or veterinary personnel in emergency situations.

VI. The Council on Research Responsibilities

- A. The Council on Research oversees the University's Laboratory Animal Care and Use Program. Included in this oversight is:
 - 1. advice on faculty representation for the Animal Welfare Committee
 - 2. review of the Committee's guidelines and procedures, and
 - 3. advice to the Vice President for Research on issues relating to animal research, use, and care.