

**University of Cincinnati  
Animal Care and Use Program**

**Custom Antibodies, Organs or Tissues**

Federal animal welfare regulations and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy require that all activities involving any live, vertebrate animals used or intended for use in research, teaching, biological testing or for related purposes be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Additionally, if PHS funds are used, then an Animal Welfare Assurance is required.

UC's Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) retains responsibility to:

1. Obtain documentation indicating that the antibody production, organs, or tissue protocols were reviewed and approved by the IACUC of the contracted producer (e.g. Contract Research Organization [CRO], academic, government),
2. Verify that the contracted producer possesses a valid PHS Assurance, and is a registered facility with the United States Department of Agriculture or USDA (if USDA species are involved), and
3. Ensure that the contracted production is scientifically justified, minimizes pain and distress to the animals involved, and is not duplicative.

**Procedures**

The [IACUC Office](#) must be notified when custom-made antibodies are to be generated or when special organs or tissues not normally banked are to be purchased or received as a donation from another institution/facility.

Once notified, the ACUP will assess and determine requirements; including but not limited to:

1. Obtaining a copy of the IACUC approval letter and possibly IACUC protocol, Animal Welfare Assurance, USDA registration, and/or AAALAC International accreditation letter from the contracted producer or donating institution/facility.
2. An interinstitutional agreement indicating responsibility and oversight (e.g. MOU, MTA)
3. UC IACUC review of a UC protocol or protocol modification (amendment) to include:
  - a. The antibodies, tissues or organs for the proposed work are not commercially available.
  - b. Scientific justification.
  - c. Assurance the receiving investigator is authorized to use and possess any radioactive materials which may be present.

In most cases, if the outside institution is AAALACi accredited and has a PHS Assurance on file with OLAW, UC IACUC review will not be needed.