

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

Principal Investigator Responsibility

The University of Cincinnati's Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) relies on the Principal Investigator (PI) of an approved IACUC protocol to understand their responsibilities when utilizing animal subjects. Additionally, the PI is responsible for ensuring that their research staff involved in the animal use protocol is equally informed of these responsibilities.

Definitions

1. Principal Investigator (PI) - the PI is defined as "an employee of a research facility, or other person associated with a research facility, responsible for a proposal to conduct research and for the design and implementation of research involving animals".¹
2. Animal subjects include vertebrate animals comprising of traditional laboratory animals, farm animals, wildlife, aquatic animals^{1,2,3,5}; and also includes cephalopods⁵.
3. Animal use encompasses research, teaching, or testing.

Responsibilities

The Principal Investigator:

1. Agrees to abide by PHS Policy, USDA Regulations when applicable, the provisions of the ILAR Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institutional and Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) policies and guidelines for the ethical and humane care and use of animals, and all other federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the use of animals in research.
2. Agrees to submit an application for the use of animals to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for any proposed use of animals in research, teaching or testing, before initiating any research project that uses animal subjects at the institution; and must wait for IACUC approval before beginning the work.^{1,2,3}
3. Understands that they must submit an amendment for any proposed changes to their protocol (including the addition/removal of personnel) and must wait for IACUC approval before beginning the work.
4. Agrees to submit records, documents, and or reports that are necessary for review as required by federal and state regulation, IACUC policy or specific request by appropriate regulatory body.
5. Ensures that all animals utilized by research staff have been approved by the IACUC (animal use protocol) and LAMS staff (animal housing space and animal health status/vendor).
6. Certifies that all experiments involving live animals will be performed under the PIs supervision or that of another qualified person listed on the protocol, and that the PI has overall responsibility for all personnel listed on the protocol with regard to handling animals in lab and in LAMS facilities.
7. Certifies that all personnel listed on their protocol, including themselves, have been appropriately qualified and experienced for conducting procedures on living animals, and will ensure that personnel have the necessary knowledge and expertise for the specific animal procedures and species for each of their defined roles.
8. Certifies that all personnel in this project will complete the IACUC orientation, occupational health, safety training and all other training applicable to research conducted under the protocol and in accordance with the ACUP training policy.

9. Certifies that all personnel have read the full animal use protocol (including hazards, amendments, etc.) and understand their roles and responsibilities.
10. Understands that the use of hazardous agents in animals may only be initiated after approval from Safety officer, IBC (if appropriate biohazard) and the IACUC.
11. Certifies that personnel on the protocol are made aware of the hazards involving the use of live animals, tissues, biohazards, chemical and radiation hazards.
12. Ensures that any animal pain, discomfort or distress will be alleviated by the proper use of analgesics, anesthetics or tranquilizers as described in the IACUC protocol, unless the protocol provides scientific justification why such agents cannot be used.⁴
13. Ensures animals living conditions are appropriate for the species and contribute to their health and comfort⁴, including having access to food and water and provided appropriate enrichment (unless otherwise justified in the protocol and approved by the IACUC).²
14. Ensures that animals are accurately maintained, properly documented and monitored as described in the IACUC approved protocol.
15. Ensures proper oversight of breeding colonies, including timely and proper weaning to avoid overcrowding with access to food and water at all times.²
16. Understands that emergency veterinary care will be administered to animals showing evidence of pain or illness, in addition to routine veterinary care as prescribed for individual species. The PI understands that it is their responsibility to provide current and updated emergency contact information to personnel responding in an emergency in order for them to contact research personnel to assist with decision making.
17. The PI understands that any unanticipated adverse effects, protocol deviation, pain or distress must be reported in accordance with policy.
18. Certifies that they will maintain complete, up-to-date and accessible records of procedures on animals as required by policy, protocol and regulation.
19. Ensures that proper sanitation practices are followed before, during and after animal experimentation.
20. Reports any violations of the Animal Welfare Act, PHS Policy, IACUC requirements including policies, the Guide or Animal Facility SOPs & Policies to the IACUC.

References

1. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA. [Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations](#). July 2023. CFR Title 9, Subchapter A - Animal Welfare. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC.
2. National Research Council. Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. 2011. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#). Public Health Service, Bethesda, MD.
3. Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, US Department of Health and Human Services. [Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#). 2015. Public Health Service, Bethesda, MD.
4. [U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training](#). Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 1985. Public Health Service, Bethesda, MD.
5. [AAALAC International](#)