

Policy on Using Privately Owned Animals and/or Privately Owned Land in Agriculture Animal Research Projects

This document establishes the policy for IACUC oversight of agricultural animal research involving privately owned animals and/or privately owned land, including when animals owned by the University of Kentucky are involved.

For domesticated animals used in agricultural research, teaching and testing, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide)* applies. For domesticated farm animals used in biomedical research, the requirements of the *ILAR Guide* and the USDA Animal Welfare Regulations apply.

The Use of Privately-Owned Agricultural Animals on University Property

For situations where the use of privately owned agricultural animals occurs on University owned (or leased) property, all standard IACUC policies and procedures apply, as set forth elsewhere.

The Use of Privately Owned Agricultural Animals on Privately Owned Property

1. For arrangements where the only animal use involves the receipt of samples (blood, feces, nasal swabs, etc.) collected by employees of the farm (non-UK personnel) for UK research efforts, the IACUC will defer oversight for the sample collection to the standard operating procedures and practices of the private farm. IACUC oversight will be restricted to those practices and procedures involving UK personnel. Please see note below.
2. For situations where the use of privately owned agricultural animals occurs on privately owned property and the PI or his/her laboratory personnel (UK personnel) are active participants in specimen collection and in minor, non-invasive procedures, the IACUC will delegate much of the standard IACUC oversight practices and procedures to the PI.
3. For situations where the use of privately owned agricultural animals occurs on privately owned property and the PI or his/her laboratory personnel is an active participant in more involved procedures (such as invasive procedures, tissue sample collection, rectal/uterine palpation, etc.) additional oversight by the IACUC will be required. Specific oversight procedures needed in these situations will be determined by the IACUC in consideration of the specific circumstances.

NOTE: In all instances (as delineated in section 1-3 above) the PI must provide assurance to the IACUC initially upon submission of a new protocol application and on a triennial basis that any participating privately owned facilities meet or exceed

contemporary farm performance standards (those typical of well-managed farms in the area) of animal care and husbandry. The assurance is incorporated into the protocol application.

Additionally, subsequent to the initial assurance, in the event that the PI becomes aware of, or has reason to suspect, that the facility no longer meets or exceeds contemporary farm performance standards of animal care and husbandry, or that animal abuse has, or may be occurring at the facility, the PI must immediately inform the OAV-IACUC office, cease all research activities and then review the issues with the IACUC.

Lastly, written consent must be signed by the Owner (or delegate) or, at a minimum, written expectations for the project shared and discussed with the Owner (or delegate) and documented by the PI. Written consent may be in the form of a contract, memorandum of agreement, consent form, or other agreement, and verbal consent may occur via written notice and discussion. See this link for a sample consent form ([Consent Form](#)). Verbal consent must be documented by the PI and made available to the IACUC upon request. How consent will be obtained must be included in the IACUC protocol and provided for review prior to protocol approval. Elements in the consent must include:

- Who will be responsible for non-research related health issues such as vaccination, deworming, injuries, infections, medications, and other medically related issues;
- What will be the disposition of the animal(s) at the conclusion of the project;
- Under what circumstances the project can be terminated and by whom.

Should changes to a previously established contract, memorandum of agreement, consent form, or other agreement be needed, the PI must inform the IACUC at once.

The Use of University Owned Agricultural Animals on Privately Owned Property

For situations where use of University owned agricultural animals occurs on privately owned (or leased) property, all standard IACUC policies and procedures apply, as set forth elsewhere. In addition, written consent must be signed by the Owner (or delegate) or, at a minimum, written expectations for the project shared to and discussed with the Owner (or delegate) and documented by the PI. Written consent may be in the form of a contract, memorandum of agreement, consent form, or other agreements, and verbal consent may occur via written notice and discussion. Verbal consent must be documented by the PI and made available to the IACUC upon request. How consent will be obtained must be included in the IACUC protocol and provided for review prior to protocol approval. Elements in the consent must include:

- Who will be responsible for non-research related health issues such as vaccination, deworming, injuries, infections, medications, and other medically related issues;

- What will be the disposition of the animal(s) at the conclusion of the project;
- Under what circumstances can the project be terminated and by whom;
- Confirmation that access to the University animals will be completely unrestricted.

For all off-site activities: PIs should contact the Office of Legal Counsel to discuss an appropriate use agreement, which might involve a release of liability.

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Medical Center Office 317 Wethington Building Lexington, Kentucky 40536
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Exemptions:

Under certain situations (e.g. activities that are considered to cause no or minimal potential pain/distress, are conducted in appropriate facilities, are conducted by experts in the field, etc.) the IACUC reserves the right to make exemptions to this policy on a case by case basis and approve proposed activities.

Approved and Adopted by the IACUC
December 15, 2010

Last Revised:
October 18, 2023