IACUC POLICIES, PROCEDURES, and GUIDELINES
Conducting Research, Teaching, or Testing Using Privately Owned Animals on University Property or on Privately Owned Land

123.1 Objective

The vast majority of research, teaching, and testing protocols using animals at the University of Kentucky have the following attributes:

- The Principal Investigator of the project is an employee of the University of Kentucky
- The animals used in the project are University owned animals
- The location on which the project is conducted is University of Kentucky owned property

This document will help to define the requirements for IACUC oversight when either privately owned animals are used, or the location of the project is privately owned land or when both situations apply. The document does not cover the situation where non-domesticated animals are the focus of a study as technically they are publicly owned.

123.2 Regulatory Requirements

The University of Kentucky has established an Institutional Program for Animal Care and Use under Administrative Regulation AR 7:5 that is “applicable to all research, teaching, and testing activities involving vertebrate animals (animal activities) conducted at the University facilities or under University sponsorship, regardless of species or source of funding.” This administrative regulation requires compliance with the Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWARs), the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy), the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (ILAR Guide), and Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide). The administrative regulation also states that “an animal use protocol must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to initiating any animal activity.”

For the domesticated farm animals used in agricultural research, teaching and testing, the Ag Guide applies. It states on page 3, “Institutions must develop policies for animal care and use related to research conducted off site as well as research using privately owned animals on and off site. The fact that research is conducted off site does not lessen the responsibility of the institution to assure appropriate and humane animal care and use.”

For laboratory animal species and for domesticated farm animals used in biomedical research, the requirements of the ILAR Guide apply. As the University of Kentucky holds a PHS Assurance, the University is obligated to follow PHS Policy implements and supplements the U.S. Government Principles for the Care and Utilization of
Vertebrate Animals used in Testing, Research, and Training. This Policy also requires the applicant to establish appropriate policies and procedures for the humane care and use of animals, based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and to comply with the Animal Welfare Act and its implementing regulations.

123.3 The Use of Privately Owned Domesticated Farm Animals on University Property in Research, Teaching and Testing

For the situation where the use of privately owned farm animals occurs on University owned (or leased) property, all of the regulations and policies applied to University owned animals along with standard IACUC oversight practices and procedures apply. Standard oversight practices include semiannual site inspections by the IACUC (with follow-up visits as necessary) and unrestricted access to the animals and associated health records by the Attending Veterinarian (or delegate). In addition, written consent must be signed by the Owner (or delegate). Consent may be in the form of a contract, memorandum of agreement, consent form, or other agreements. 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

123.4 The Use of Privately Owned Domesticated Farm Animals on Privately Owned Property in Research, Teaching, or Testing

1. For arrangements where the sole vertebrate animal use involves the receipt of non-invasively obtained samples (blood, feces, nasal swabs, etc.) collected by employees of the farm (non-UK personnel) and transferred to UK investigators or personnel for research efforts without remuneration, 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.

2. For situations where the use of privately owned farm animals occurs on privately owned property where the PI or his/her laboratory 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. The UK Principal Investigator (PI) must provide written assurance to the IACUC initially upon submission of a new protocol application and on an annual basis that the facility meets or exceeds contemporary farm performance standards (those typical of well run farms in the area) of animal care and husbandry. The assurance should be sent to the ORI-IACUC office which will attach the document to the appropriate animal care and use protocol at each annual review.
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 ORI-IACUC office and immediately cease all research activities at the facility until the issue is addressed by the IACUC. In such case, the level of IACUC oversight will be elevated. An IACUC investigation will ensue with the results and recommendations by the IACUC investigative committee brought before the full IACUC. The outcome will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

3. For the situation where the use of privately owned farm animals occurs on privately owned property where the PI 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.

For all off-site activities, PIs should contact the Office of Legal Counsel (Main Legal Office 301 Main Building Lexington, KY 40506-0032 Phone: (859) 257-2936 Fax: (859) 323-1062; Medical Center Office 317 Wethington Building Lexington, Kentucky 40536 Phone: (859) 323-1161 Fax: (859) 257-5123) to discuss an appropriate use agreement, which might involve a release of liability.

123.5 The Use of University Owned Domesticated Farm Animals on Privately Owned Property in Research, Teaching, or Testing

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- 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
- Access to the University animal’s will be completely unrestricted
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 exceptions to this policy on a case by case basis and approve proposed activities.

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Approved and Adopted by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
December 15, 2010

Amended and Approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
March 21, 2012

Amended and Approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
November 13, 2013