

University of Louisville
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policies and Procedures

Research Studies Utilizing Privately Owned Animals

Policy: Pets used in research must be covered under an IACUC-approved *Proposal*. Informed consent of the owner must be obtained prior to the conduct of the research. A completed Informed Consent and Release form tailored specifically to the intended use of animals is required. An OLAW-approved Animal Welfare Assurance must cover all performance sites for PHS-funded research. If the research activity is being conducted in collaboration with a private veterinary practice, the investigator should consider the use of a memorandum of understanding or other written agreement. The veterinary clinical care of a privately owned animal is not a research activity, is not provided by UofL, and does not require IACUC approval. Zoonotic transmission of diseases from pets enrolled in research must be considered as a potential Occupational Health Hazard and a process to verify proof of vaccination (*e.g.*, Rabies, DHLPP) should be included in the IACUC *Proposal* for pets that are typically vaccinated against the disease.

Rationale: When a privately owned animal is recruited, with the owner's consent, for participation in a research study or veterinary clinical trial and the activity includes collection or generation of data for research purposes, such activities are considered research and are subject to IACUC oversight. The Public Health Service Policy (PHS Policy) covers live vertebrate animals used or intended for use in research, research training, and biological testing activities conducted or supported by the PHS. The PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations (AWAR) do not distinguish between animals owned by the institution and privately owned animals. The following Guidelines have been established to aid investigators in preparing IACUC proposals that utilize privately owned animals.

Procedures, Guidelines and Exceptions:

1. All sections of the *Proposal* form must be completed, including specifying animal species, justification of the number of animals used/enrolled, and consideration of alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary pain and distress. The *Proposal* must also describe potential complications that may arise during the use of the pet for the experiment and what will be done to care for the animal if a complication arises. (*Example:* should inadvertent trauma occur during sample collection from the animal, the owner will obtain veterinary medical care from their primary care veterinarian following initial first aid such as applying pressure to obtain hemostasis.)
2. An Informed Consent and Release (see attached template) must be appended to the IACUC *Proposal* for review and approval by the IACUC at the same time that the IACUC *Proposal* is submitted for review. This form must be tailored specifically to the intended use of animals in the applicable IACUC *Proposal*.
3. Use of any non-UofL facility must be specifically reviewed and approved by the IACUC in accordance with existing IACUC policies.

Attachment: "Informed Consent and Release" template form

Reference:

Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 2002. Frequently Asked Questions, Applicability of PHS Policy, Questions 7 and 8.

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