

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

Use of Tissue and Tissue Sharing

Policy: Use of tissues that are acquired from animals not originating from a Principal Investigator's approved *Proposal to Use Animals in Research and Teaching* ("Animal Proposal"), such as from other laboratories or abattoirs, requires an approved "*Proposal to Use Fresh or Frozen Tissue in Research and Teaching*" ("Tissue Proposal"). PI's with current IACUC-approval for a given species, however, are exempt from this requirement.

Rationale: Principal Investigators are encouraged to maximize use of tissues collected from live animals as approved in an IACUC-approved "*Animal Proposal*," and tissue collected following euthanasia of animals assigned to the PI's *Animal Proposal*. However, use of animal tissue from other sources raises biological security and occupational health/safety issues that require oversight.

Procedures, Guidelines, and Exceptions:

1. As a means of reducing overall animal usage, the IACUC encourages investigators to share animal tissues except where specifically prohibited by the terms of a grant or contract. Investigators should list shared tissue as a "Tissue Source" on the IACUC *Proposal to Use Fresh or Frozen Tissue in Research and Teaching*.
2. This does *NOT* authorize transfer of live animals from one project to another; animals must undergo euthanasia according to, and by personnel listed on, the "donor's" IACUC-approved *Proposal*.
3. In some cases, specific grants or contracts may require a letter of understanding that tissues from one project may be transferred to a second project (see also UofL "Ethics Document," available from the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation).

Original Approval: 18 January 2007

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