

**University of California, Merced  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Policy**

Version No. 2

Policy No. 101

**Authority of the Attending Veterinarian**

**I. Purpose:**

It is the University's responsibility to support ongoing improvements in the animal care and use program through the development and implementation of procedures and policies that enhance the health of the animals. Clear provisions should be made to give the veterinarian appropriate authority to execute a program of adequate veterinary care, including access to all animals.

**II. Definition:**

**Attending Veterinarian:** a veterinarian given direct or delegated authority to oversee the adequacy of veterinary care and other aspects of animal care.

**III. Policy:**

- A. The attending (responsible) veterinarian has **full** authority to treat or humanely euthanize animals at his or her discretion. Ideally, this will be done after consultation with the Principal Investigator or responsible members of the research team. However, the attending veterinarian is **not** required to seek approval from the investigator, the investigator's department chair, or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in order to treat or euthanize animals for humane reasons if such actions are judged prudent by the veterinarian for the welfare of the animal.
- B. The attending veterinarian may immediately stop research activities conducted under a protocol for humane reasons or protocol deviations pending IACUC review of an incident.
- C. The attending veterinarian must have unrestricted access to all areas where animals are used or housed (including the vivarium, research laboratories, and research study areas).

**IV. Responsibility:**

The Attending Veterinarian is responsible for developing and implementing programs for the provision of comprehensive veterinary care; is a voting member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC); advises the Committee on issues affecting animal care, housing, and use; and shares responsibility with the Committee for developing, implementing, and monitoring programs designed to ensure regulatory compliance. The Attending Veterinarian is responsible for reviewing all animal use protocols submitted to the IACUC and providing veterinary feedback and advice to investigators. Moreover, the Attending Veterinarian assures that all campus animal activities are conducted according to the laws and regulations and the mission and goals of the University..

**V. Related Policies:**

- Research and Instruction Using Animal Subjects (Policy 100)
- Notification of Investigator with Sick or Injured Animals (Policy 102)

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**VI. References:**

- *The Animal Welfare Act* (Public Law 89-544, amended by Public Law 91-579, Public Law 94-279, and Public Law 99-198)
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Guidebook (OLAW 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- UCM Assurance of Compliance with Public Health Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Committee on Animal Research
- *UCM Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Website*

*IACUC Approval:* \_\_\_\_\_