

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

Version No. 2

Policy No. 100

Research and Instruction Using Animal Subjects

I. Purpose:

The University has established policies on the use of animal subjects to promote their humane care and use in research and instruction and to ensure institutional compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and University policies governing the use of animals.

II. Definition:

Institutional Care and Use Committee: the generic name for a board, committee, or other group formally designated by an institution to oversee the institution's animal program, facilities, and procedures.

III. Policy:

This policy is applicable to all research, research training, instructional, and biological testing activities involving live vertebrate animals conducted at UCM or its facilities or affiliates, as defined in *UCM Assurance of Compliance with Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

- A. UCM complies with all applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and other federal regulations and policies relating to the use of animals in research and instruction.
- B. UCM is directed by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th Edition).
- C. UCM accepts responsibility for the care and use of animals involved in activities covered by the UCM Assurance of Compliance with Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. To fulfill this responsibility, UCM makes every reasonable effort to assure that all individuals involved in the care and use of laboratory animals understand their individual and collective responsibilities for compliance with this assurance as well as all other applicable laws and regulations pertaining to animal care and use.
- D. UCM grants or subcontracts Public Health Service supported activity involving the use of laboratory animals to another institution only when that institution has an approved UCM Assurance of Compliance with Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- E. UCM maintains a program for activities involving animals in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- F. UCM has established an institutional animal care and use committee, called the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which is qualified through the experience and expertise of its members to oversee the institution's animal program, facilities, and procedures.

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IV. Responsibility:

A. Vice Chancellor for Research

1. Is responsible for compliance with federal and state regulations and statutes, and University policies on the care and use of animals in research and instruction.
2. May disapprove applications that are approved by IACUC, which has the sole authority to approve applications for the use of animals in research and training at UCM.
3. Nominates IACUC members (Formal appointment by the Chancellor).

B. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

1. Review at least once every six months the UCM program for humane care and use of animals;
2. Inspect at least once every six months the UCM animal care facilities;
3. Make written recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for Research regarding any aspect of the UCM animal program, facilities, or personnel training;
4. Review all applications for proposed use of live vertebrates for research and teaching;
5. Notify investigators and appropriate UCM officials in writing of its decision to approve or withhold approval of applications or modifications of ongoing activities;
6. Review concerns involving the care and use of animals at UCM;
7. Suspend any activity found to be out of compliance with applicable laws or regulations or at variance with the relevant protocol approved by IACUC;
8. Notify investigators, appropriate UCM officials, and appropriate federal oversight agencies of any suspensions and the corrective actions taken when reinstatement of the approval occurs.

C. Principal Investigator – The Principle Investigator is responsible for:

1. The continued ethical conduct of any research or instruction using live vertebrate animals, in compliance with the protocol as approved by IACUC;
2. Submitting applications (initial, renewal, and modifications) and adverse events reports to allow sufficient time for review and processing;
3. Ensuring that involved staff and students have been sufficiently trained and know how to handle and properly care for the species of animal being used in teaching or research;
4. Ensuring that all personnel listed in an approved protocol have read, understand and are thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the study.

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5. Ensuring that all personnel listed in an approved protocol are enrolled in the Occupational Health and Safety Program.

D. Clinical Veterinarians – Clinical veterinarians are responsible for:

1. The prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease in laboratory animals;
2. Advising investigators regarding the use of models for research projects, proper anesthetic techniques, and control of animal and human pathogens;
3. Conducting training programs for investigators, staff, and students in the proper care and use of animals;
4. Reporting to the IACUC any serious or ongoing concerns regarding the care and use of animals.
5. Clinical veterinarians are authorized to terminate immediately any activity that is out of compliance with approved or accepted procedures or that poses an imminent threat to the welfare of a laboratory animal.

V. **References:**

- *The Animal Welfare Act* (Public Law 89-544, amended by Public Law 91-579, Public Law 94-279, and Public Law 99-198)
- Code of Federal Regulations: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA (9 CFR Ch.I)
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th 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*