

15.99.07.W1 Use of Vertebrate Animals

Approved November 30, 2015
Revised October 15, 2018
Revised December 3, 2021
Next Scheduled Review December 3, 2026



Rule Summary

West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) is committed to the humane and ethical treatment of vertebrate animals used in research, teaching and testing; and complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, polices and guidelines. This rule applies to all employees and students who use vertebrate animals in research, teaching or testing.

Rule

1. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 All vertebrate animals used in research, teaching or testing regardless of the funding sources or whether the activity is funded, shall be provided humane care and treatment and falls within the scope of this rule.
- 1.2 In addition to on-campus activities, this rule includes animal teaching, testing and research conducted:
 - 1.2.1 in the field by member faculty, students or staff;
 - 1.2.2 by member students at other institutions as part of the completion of a degree;
 - 1.2.3 at another institution as part of a joint contract;
 - 1.2.4 in off-campus activities involving a student as part of the completion of a course;
 - 1.2.5 in the teaching of member undergraduate and graduate courses;
 - 1.2.6 by graduate veterinarians for continuing education; or
 - 1.2.7 with client-owned animals participating in clinical research studies.
- 1.3 A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) registration or license will be obtained prior to performing any activity subject to the Animal Welfare Act.
- 1.4 A Public Health Service (PHS) Animal Welfare Assurance (Assurance) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) will

be obtained prior to performing any activity supported by PHS, the National Science Foundation, or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration involving animals.

- 1.4.1 For such research, West Texas A&M University will follow:
 - 1.4.1.1 The Animal Welfare Act as applicable;
 - 1.4.1.2 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* when conducting research, teaching or testing activities involving non-agricultural animals and biomedical research activities in agricultural animals; or
 - 1.4.1.3 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* when conducting research, teaching or testing activities involving agricultural animals intended for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management or production efficiency or for improving the quality of food and fiber. Additionally, Chapter 2 of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Animal Care and Use Program, must be followed.

- 1.5 The use of vertebrate animals, whether for research, teaching or testing purposes, shall be described in an Animal Use Protocol (AUP). The AUP is a form designed to capture relevant information regarding the appropriate use of the animals in research, teaching or testing activities.
 - 1.5.1 For each project involving animals used in research, teaching, or testing, an AUP must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to initiation of work with the animal(s).
 - 1.5.2 An approved and current AUP for all animal activities must be in place at all times animals are housed or used for research, testing or teaching.
 - 1.5.3 All modifications to approved animal activities must be approved prior to initiation of the changes by the IACUC directly, or through a formal process established by the IACUC for Veterinary Verification and Consultation or Administrative Review by support staff, as applicable to the individual IACUC, and depending on the nature of the modification.

2 INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL

- 2.1 The WTAMU President/CEO has appointed the Vice President for Risk and Compliance to serve as the Institutional Official (IO) with administrative authority to commit institutional resources to ensure that the animal care and use program will comply with state and federal requirements.
- 2.2 As IO, the Vice President for Risk Compliance executes the USDA registration(s), PHS assurance(s), and reports submitted to these agencies as required.
- 2.3 The IO has been delegated authority by the WTAMU President/CEO to appoint and remove members of the IACUC(s).

3 INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

- 3.1 The WTAMU IACUC shall be appointed and structured, and shall perform duties and functions as described in the Animal Welfare Act. In the event of PHS funded animal research, the IACUC shall be appointed and structured, and shall perform the duties and functions as described in the documents: “Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and the “Applied Research Ethics National Association/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Institutional Care and Use Committee Guidebook”.
- 3.2 The IACUC shall be appointed by and report to the IO. There may be more than one IACUC appointed by and reporting to the IO.
- 3.3 The IACUC(s) may approve, disapprove, or request modifications of AUPs. The IACUC(s) may also suspend a previously approved research, teaching or testing activity covered by this rule for non-compliance with protocol description, or if it is otherwise in non-compliance. The IACUC shall have full authority to enter any areas where animals are used or housed for research, teaching or testing to ensure compliance. A decision by the IACUC not to approve research, teaching or testing may not be overridden by the IO.
- 3.4 The IACUC shall carry out all of those duties specifically assigned to it in government regulations and policies. In addition to duties mandated in government regulations and policies, the IACUC(s) shall review all aspects of the program for the humane care and use of animals including short-term and long-term goals, and regulations and procedures pertaining to animal care and use.
- 3.5 The IACUC shall approve use of vertebrate animals by WTAMU and/or members of the Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Team (CREET) prior to their use by faculty, students or staff. Non-University-owned vertebrate animals may not be used by WTAMU faculty, students or staff without prior approval of the IACUC. In addition to on-campus activity, this compliance requirement includes, but is not limited to, animal teaching, testing and research conducted:
 - 3.5.1 in the field by faculty, students or staff;
 - 3.5.2 by university students at other institutions as part of the completion of a degree;
 - 3.5.3 at another institution as part of a joint contract;
 - 3.5.4 in off-campus activities involving a student as part of the completion of a University course;
 - 3.5.5 in the teaching of West Texas A&M University undergraduate and graduate courses;
 - 3.5.6 by graduate veterinarians for continuing education; and

3.5.7 with client-owned animals participating in clinical research studies.

4 USE OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TEACHING OR TESTING

- 4.1 Use of animals in agricultural research, teaching or testing is overseen by the IACUC. Agricultural research, teaching or testing is defined as research, teaching or testing activities involving horses, and other farm animals, not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency or for improving the quality of food or fiber.
- 4.2 The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* is utilized as a reference which should be followed when conducting research, teaching or testing activities involving food and fiber production in agricultural animals. The requirements set forth in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* are required for those projects supported by PHS, the National Science Foundation or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration involving animals.
- 4.3 When agricultural animals are involved in biomedical research, animal use and compliance must adhere to additional applicable federal guidelines including the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.
- 4.4 Use of vertebrate animals in agricultural research, teaching, or testing must comply with System Regulation 15.99.07.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- 5.1 Principal investigators are responsible for compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations and Texas A&M University System policies, regulations, including this rule and are responsible for:
 - 5.1.1 assuring that animal work is appropriately reviewed and approved prior to initiation of any activities or changes to approved activities. Regardless of funding status or sources, an AUP involving the use of animals in research, teaching, or testing must be prepared and signed by the principal investigator and must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC. If research is collaborative or involves other institutions, approval must be obtained from each institution.
 - 5.1.2 assuring that conduct of animal research, teaching or testing activities is restricted to the animal activities described in the approved AUP or approved amendments, and is in congruence with funding grants, if applicable, assuring that all participants in animal activities are appropriately qualified through training and education to perform their responsibilities as listed in the AUP.
 - 5.1.3 assuring that all participants in animal activities are enrolled in an Occupational Health and Safety program.

- 5.1.4 assuring that all animal activities involving hazardous and biohazardous activities are approved by the appropriate safety committees.
- 5.1.5 abiding by all determinations of the IACUC, including, but not limited to directives to terminate participation in designated research, teaching or testing activities;
- 5.1.6 notifying the IACUC as soon as possible after the discovery of any incident that involves adverse events relating to the care or use of animals covered by this rule, including reporting any animal concerns or noncompliance.

6 ATTENDING VETERINARIAN

- 6.1 The role and responsibilities of the Attending Veterinarians(s), or designee(s), is as set forth in System Regulation 15.99.07.
- 6.2 The Attending Veterinarian(s), or designee(s), shall provide guidance to the campus animal facility managers, animal users, and administrators on current standards for the care and use of animals in teaching, testing and research programs, and shall serve as the Attending Veterinarian of record under the Animal Welfare Act.
- 6.3 The Attending Veterinarian(s) has direct or delegated authority for activities involving animals at the institution, serves as a voting member of the IACUC and coordinates campus programs for provision of adequate husbandry and veterinary care of research, testing and teaching animals.

7 REPORTING

- 7.1 The IO is responsible for ensuring the prompt notification to governmental authorities after the discovery of any incident that requires notification to the IACUC, OLAW, USDA, or other governmental authority with respect to the care or use of animals that are involved in research, teaching or testing activities covered by this Rule.
- 7.2 Anyone who is aware of potential violations to existing animal care and use regulations or observes misuse or mistreatment of animals are strongly encouraged to report their concerns to the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian or to the IO. Concerns may also be reported anonymously on-line through Compliance Helpline or via EthicsPoint.
- 7.3 All allegations of mistreatment or noncompliance will be taken seriously and investigated by the IACUC. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible and appropriate and permissible under the law. No university employee or student shall be discriminated against or subject to any reprisal for good faith reporting of actual or potential violations.

Definitions

Animal: Any live vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, teaching, or biological testing or for related purposes.

Animal Care and Use Program: The activities conducted by and at an institution that have a direct impact on the well-being of animals, including animal and veterinary care, policies and procedures, personnel and program management and oversight, occupational health and safety, IACUC functions, and animal facility design and management. The university may maintain multiple location specific programs.

Animal Facility: Any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments including surgical manipulation.

Animal Welfare Act: Public Law 89-544, 1966, as amended, (P.L. 91-579, P.L. 94-279, and P.L. 99-198) 7 U.S.C. 2131 et. Seq. Implementing regulations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1,2, and 3 and are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Attending Veterinarian: The veterinarian responsible for the health and well-being of all vertebrate animals used at the institution.

Institutional Official (IO): The individual who bears ultimate responsibility for the Animal Care and Use Program and is responsible for resource planning and ensuring alignment of Program goals with the university's mission. The Vice President for Research and Compliance is the university's Institutional Official for purposes of this Rule.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC): An administrative body appointed by and reporting to the Institutional Official in accordance with 9 CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter C, Part 2.31, P.L. 99-158, and the Health Research Extension Act of 1985. There may be more than one IACUC appointed by the Institutional Official.

Non-compliance: Failure to comply with state and federal regulations, system policies or regulations, university rules or procedures, IACUC procedures or the requirements to conduct research, teaching or testing using animals.

Public Health Service Policy: Refers to Public Health Service Policy for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals ("PHS Policy") which requires institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing activities conducted and supported by the Public Health Service.

Use of animals: Any activity involving vertebrate animals in which the natural life style or movements of the animals is perturbed.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[System Regulation 15.99.07 Use of Vertebrate Animals](#)

[The Animal Welfare Act \(7 U.S.C. § 2131-2159\) and Amendments and the Animal Welfare Regulations \(9 CFR chapter 1\).](#)

[Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(National Institutes of Health\) Health Research Extension Act of 1985](#)

[U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(PDF\)](#)

[Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching \(PDF\)](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture Animal Care Policies](#)

Revision History

Revised October 15, 2018

Contact Office

Office of Academic and Research Environmental Health and Safety
806-651-2740

Approval Office

Office of the President
(806) 651-2100

Approval Signature




President/CEO

12.16.2021

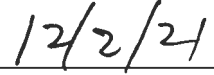
Date

System Approvals

Approved for Legal Sufficiency:

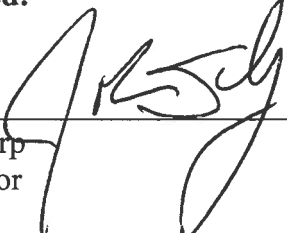


Ray Bonilla
General Counsel




Date

Approved:



John Sharp
Chancellor



Date