

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY
STANDARD POLICY

DIVISION: All University Colleges

CAMPUS: Downers Grove and Glendale

SUBJECT: Animal Research	POLICY NO. 0006		
APPROVED BY: Kathleen H. Goeppinger, Ph.D. President and CEO	ISSUE DATE 3/28/25	SUPERSEDES 12/98	PAGES 7

PURPOSE: This policy describes institutional measures designed to ensure appropriate care and use of animals in research, training, and testing at Midwestern University (MWU).

POLICY: It is the policy of MWU that no activity involving animals shall be conducted in association with research, training, or testing under the auspices of MWU until approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

- (1) This review is required of all activities involving MWU-owned animals without qualification as to source of funds.
- (2) Review is also required of any activity involving animals carried out under the sponsorship of an institution other than MWU.

The procurement, retention, or use of live animals by any member of MWU must be approved by the IACUC and be in accordance with procedures stated in the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (hereinafter referred to as the *PHS Policy*) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (hereinafter referred to as the *Ag Guide*).

All members using animals shall be responsible for ensuring that animal use and care both comply with all stated regulations and requirements and conform to an acceptable humane ethic. Students and staff using animals shall be supervised by a faculty member who shall be accountable for any

actions of these individuals. Personnel involved in the care and use of animals are required to complete all training as deemed appropriate by the IACUC and respective Animal Facility.

- (1) When animals are used for testing, training, or research, such work shall be under the direct supervision of an experienced faculty member. The rules for the care of animals used for testing and training must be the same as for animals used for research.
- (2) Appropriate anesthetics must be used to eliminate sensibility to pain during operative or painful procedures.
- (3) Where recovery from anesthesia is necessary during the study, acceptable techniques to minimize pain must be followed.
- (4) Curarizing agents are not anesthetics.
- (5) For studies that do not require recovery from anesthesia, animals must be euthanized in a humane manner at the conclusion of the experiment following the guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia (<https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/avma-guidelines-2020.htm>).

Information Required in Applications and Proposals for IACUC Review

- (1) All APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF ANIMALS must include the following information:
 - (a) Identification of the species and number of animals to be used.
 - (b) Rationale for using animals, appropriateness of the species chosen, and number of each species/strain to be used.
 - (c) A complete description of the proposed procedures to be applied to animals.
 - (d) A description of procedures designed to ensure that discomfort and injury to animals will be limited to that which is

unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically valuable research, and that analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs will be used where indicated and appropriate to minimize discomfort and pain to animals.

- (e) A description of any euthanasia method to be used.

Review of Activities Involving Animals

- (1) To approve a proposed activity or proposed significant changes in ongoing activities, the IACUC shall review and determine that the proposed activities are in accordance with this Policy. In making this determination, the IACUC shall confirm that the activity will be conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) insofar as it applies to the activity and that the activity is consistent with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (hereinafter referred to as the NIH *Guide*) and the *Ag Guide* unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented. Furthermore, the IACUC shall determine that the activity conforms with the Institution's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) Assurance and meets the following requirements:
 - (a) Procedures with animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals, consistent with sound research design.
 - (b) Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals will be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, unless the procedure is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.
 - (c) Animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly euthanized at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.
 - (d) The living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding, and care of the animals will be reviewed by an attending veterinarian or their designee who must also be a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied.

- (e) Medical care for animals will be available and provided as necessary by a qualified veterinarian.
- (f) Personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied will be appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.
- (g) Methods of euthanasia used will be consistent with the recommendation of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia.

(2) Prior to the review, each IACUC member shall be provided with the full protocol which includes the proposed activities to be reviewed. Written descriptions of activities that involve the care and use of animals shall be available to all IACUC members, and any member of the IACUC may obtain, upon request, full committee review of those activities. If full committee review is not requested, at least one member of the IACUC designated by the chairperson and qualified to conduct the review, shall review the activity and have the authority to approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or request full committee review of the activity. If full committee review is requested, approval of the activity may be granted only after review at a convened meeting of a quorum of the IACUC and with the approval vote of a majority of the quorum present. No member may participate in the IACUC review or approval of an activity in which the member has a conflicting interest (e.g., is personally involved in the project) except to provide information requested by the IACUC; nor may a member who has a conflicting interest contribute to the constitution of a quorum.

(3) The IACUC may invite consultants to assist in the review of complex issues. Consultants may not approve or withhold approval of an activity or vote with the IACUC unless they are also members of the IACUC.

(4) The IACUC shall notify investigators and the institution in writing of its decision to approve or withhold approval of those activities related to the care and use of animals, or of modifications required to secure IACUC approval. If the IACUC decides to withhold approval of an activity, it shall include in its written notification a statement of the reasons for its decision and give the investigator an opportunity to respond in person or in writing.

- (5) The IACUC shall conduct continuing review of approved animal activities covered by this Policy at appropriate intervals as determined by the IACUC, but not less than once every three years.
- (6) The IACUC may suspend an activity that it previously approved if it determines that the activity is not being conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of the AWA, the NIH *Guide*, and the Institution's OLAW Assurance. The IACUC may suspend an activity only after reviewing the matter at a convened meeting of a quorum of the IACUC and with the suspension vote of a majority of the quorum present.
- (7) If the IACUC suspends an activity involving animals, the Institutional Official (IO) in consultation with the IACUC shall review the reasons for suspension, take appropriate corrective action, and report that action with a full explanation, as consistent with MWU procedures, to the appropriate agencies which may include OLAW; the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International; the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and other appropriate funding agencies.
- (8) Applications and proposals that have been approved by the IACUC may be subject to further appropriate review and approval by officials of the Institution. However, those officials may not approve of an activity involving the care and use of animals if it has not been approved by the IACUC.

APPENDIX I

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

This Committee is composed of at least five (5) members appointed (according to federal guidelines) by the President and Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the IO. One member is appointed as Chair by the President with the recommendation of the IO. The membership of the Committee includes at least one practicing scientist experienced in research with animals; at least one member not affiliated with the Institution; a veterinarian with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, who has direct or delegated authority and responsibility for activities involving animals at the Institution; and one member who is a nonscientist. Members are selected for this Committee in accordance with the requirements set forth in the AWA (Public Law 89-544, 1966, as amended).

The charge to the IACUC is to:

1. review the Institution's program for humane care and use of animals, using the NIH *Guide* as a basis for evaluation, at least once every six months;
2. inspect the animal facility, at least once every six months using the NIH *Guide* and the *Ag Guide* as a basis for evaluation, at least once every six months;
3. prepare reports of the IACUC evaluations conducted as required by points 1 and 2 above and submit the reports to the IO. The reports shall be updated at least once every six months upon completion of the required semiannual evaluations and shall be maintained by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and made available to the NIH, OLAW, and other regulatory agencies upon request. The reports must contain a description of the nature and extent of the institution's adherence to the NIH *Guide*, the *PHS Policy*, the *Ag Guide*, and the AWA, and must identify specifically any departures from the provisions of the NIH *Guide* and the *PHS Policy* and must state the reasons for each departure. The reports must distinguish significant deficiencies from minor deficiencies. A significant deficiency is one which, consistent with this policy, and, in the judgment of the IACUC and the IO, is or may be a threat to the health or safety of the animals. If program or facility deficiencies are noted, the reports must contain a reasonable and specific plan and schedule for correcting each deficiency.
4. review concerns involving the care and use of animals at the Institution;
5. make recommendations to the IO regarding any aspect of the Institution's animal program, facilities, or personnel training;
6. review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or withhold approval of those components of all activities related to the care and use of animals for testing, training, or research at MWU;

7. review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing testing, training, or research activities;
8. monitoring of animal care and use is required by the PHS *Policy* and the AWA. This is achieved by laboratory inspections (either semianual regular facility inspections, or additional), veterinary or IACUC observation of selected procedures; observation of animals by animal care, veterinary, and IACUC members; and external regulatory inspections and assessments;
9. suspend an activity involving animals if it is determined that the activity is not being conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of the AWA, the NIH *Guide*, the PHS *Policy*, or an approved IACUC protocol.