

# DRAFT

## Chapter 9 General Provisions

### 9.32 Research Administration

#### 9.32.4 – Use of Animals in Research

##### I. PURPOSE

UTSA promotes the ethical, responsible and humane use of animals in research. The university complies with all requirements set down in both of the US Federal regulations governing the use of animals in research. Those regulations are the [Animal Welfare Act](#) (9CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1, 2 and 3) and the [Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (Public Law 99-158, November 20, 1985, "Animals in Research"), which requires institutions filing and maintaining a PHS *Assurance* to use the [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) as the basis for developing and implementing an institutional program for activities involving animals. A PHS *Assurance* is required from any institution receiving grant or contract money from NIH to do research involving animals.

##### II. POLICY

All animals used in research, teaching and testing at UTSA will be handled and treated as sentient beings in the most ethical, responsible and humane manner at all times by all UTSA employees engaged in funded or unfunded research involving animals at the university.

All employees that will have direct contact with live research animals at UTSA will abide by all Federal, State and University regulations that pertain to the care and use of said research animals.

##### III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Associate Vice President for Research Administration (SAVPRA) has been designated by the President as the Institutional Official for Research Animal Issues (IO), and as such is responsible for 1) appointing the members of the IACUC and 2) ensuring that UTSA complies with all applicable animal welfare laws, regulations, and policies. The IO signs forms, reports, and letters on behalf of UTSA and interacts with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in overseeing the Institutional Animal Care Program (IACP).

A. As an agent of UTSA, the IACUC shall:

1. review at least once every six months UTSA's program for humane care and use of animals, using the [Guide](#) and the [Animal Welfare Act](#) as a basis for evaluation;
2. inspect at least once every six months all of UTSA's animal facilities (including satellite facilities) using the [Guide](#) and the [Animal Welfare Act](#) as a basis for evaluation;
3. prepare reports of the IACUC evaluations conducted as required by IV.B.1. and 2. of the PHS Policy, and submit the reports to the Institutional Official; (NOTE: The

reports shall be updated at least once every six months upon completion of the required semiannual evaluations and shall be maintained by the institution and made available to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) upon request. The reports must contain a description of the nature and extent of UTSA's adherence to the [Guide](#), the [Animal Welfare Act](#) and the PHS Policy and must identify specifically any departures from the provisions of the [Guide](#), the [Animal Welfare Act](#) 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 Institutional Official, 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. If some or all of UTSA's facilities are accredited by AAALAC International or another accrediting body recognized by PHS, the report should identify those facilities as such.)

4. review concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution;
5. make recommendations to the Institutional Official regarding any aspect of UTSA's animal program, facilities, or personnel training;
6. review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or withhold approval of activities related to the care and use of animals as specified in IV.C. of the PHS Policy and the [Animal Welfare Act](#);
7. review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities; and
8. be authorized to suspend an activity involving animals in accordance with the specifications set forth in IV.C.6 of the PHS Policy and the [Animal Welfare Act](#).

#### B. IACUC Review of Proposed Research Projects involving Animals.

1. In order to approve proposed research projects or proposed significant changes in ongoing research projects, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed research projects are in accordance with PHS Policy. In making this determination, the IACUC shall confirm that the research project will be conducted in accordance with the [Animal Welfare Act](#) insofar as it applies to the research project, and that the research project is consistent with the [Guide](#) unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented. Further, the IACUC shall determine that the research project conforms with UTSA's PHS 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 withholding such treatments is adequately 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 killed 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 nonmedical care of the animals will be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and 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 recommendations of the [American Veterinary Medical Association \(AVMA\) Guidelines on Euthanasia \(2007\)](#) (PDF), unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.

2. Prior to the review, each IACUC member shall be provided with a list of proposed research projects to be reviewed. Written descriptions of research projects 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 research projects. 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 those research projects and have the authority to approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or request full committee review of those research projects. If full committee review is requested, approval of those research projects 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 a research project 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 each previously approved, ongoing activity covered by the PHS Policy at appropriate intervals as determined by the IACUC, including a complete review in accordance with IV.C.1.-4. of the PHS Policy at least once every three years. Annual reviews will be conducted in accordance with the [Animal Welfare Act](#).

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 [Animal Welfare Act](#), the [Guide](#), UTSA's Assurance, or IV.C.1.a.-g. of the PHS Policy.<sup>11</sup> The IACUC may suspend an activity only after review of 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 in consultation with the IACUC shall review the reasons for suspension, take appropriate corrective action, and report that action with a full explanation to OLAW.

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 an activity involving the care and use of animals if it has not been approved by the IACUC.

For more definitive information on the use of animals in research at UTSA, contact the Institutional Animal Care Program (IACP) office at [iacuc@utsa.edu](mailto:iacuc@utsa.edu), call the IACP Office at 458-7733 or visit the IACP website: <http://vpr.utsa.edu/oric/iacuc/>.

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