

# **University at Buffalo Institutional Animal Care and Use Program**

## **Policy on the Use of Animal Tissues or Carcasses**

### **Introduction**

Situations may occur in which SUNY at Buffalo Faculty/Staff will need to use animal tissue or carcasses obtained from on-campus or off-campus sources for research, teaching, or testing on UB campuses. In agreement with Russell and Burch's 3 Rs (reduction, refinement, replacement), the UB IACUC encourages tissue sharing when possible. Except in rare circumstances, Animal Welfare Regulations (Animal Welfare Act and PHS Policy) do not apply to dead animals used in a research facility setting. Therefore, a completed animal use protocol is usually not necessary if only tissues or carcasses are used, and the animals were not euthanized solely for the purpose of tissue collection. However, it is important for the UB IACUC to have knowledge of animal tissues or carcasses used on campus for biosafety & security, personnel safety, liability, and public relations purposes.

### **Definitions**

**Animal Tissue:** Any part of a vertebrate animal that contributes to the individual's or species' homeostasis when the animal is alive. The policy is not intended for commercially available, purchased materials, or rodent-derived cell lines.

**USDA regulated animal:** Any dog, cat, non-human primate, guinea pig, hamster, chinchilla, ferret, rabbit, pig, sheep, or other warm-blooded vertebrate animals excluding birds used in research, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus*.

### **Policy**

This policy outlines the UB IACUC requirements for using animal tissue or carcasses on campus for research, teaching, or testing.

1. An IACUC Animal Use Protocol IS required if any of the following criteria are met:
  - a. IF an animal is euthanized specifically for a study.
  - b. IF the animal is alive when the tissue is removed (includes blood).
  - c. IF the tissue comes from live animals obtained from another PI's study.
  - d. IF the euthanasia procedure or pre-procedure is modified to accommodate the conditions of the study.
2. An IACUC Request Form for Use of Tissues or Carcasses must be submitted to the IACUC Office for the following circumstances:
  - a. IF a researcher will be using a whole USDA regulated animal carcass.
  - b. IF the animal tissues have been exposed to hazardous agents (chemical, biological or radiation), and it is within the precautionary period.
  - c. IF the animal tissues have been exposed to or modified by recombinant Nucleic Acid technologies such as plasmids, viral vectors, or CRISPR systems.
  - d. IF the animals carry or potentially carry known infectious agents.

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- e. IF animal tissue is obtained from ANY source outside of the university (i.e. slaughterhouse, pet shop, zoo, another university, or are wild-caught).
  - f. IF tissue collection requires any special permit (i.e. DEC permit for roadkill salvage).
- 3. The IACUC Request Form for Use of Tissues or Carcasses will be reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian (or their designate), Biosafety Officer, and the IACUC Chair.
  - 4. The PI will be notified when they are approved to obtain the animal tissue/carcass.
  - 5. IF animal tissue is obtained from other investigators on-campus and does not meet the circumstances outlined in Section 1 or Section 2, an IACUC Request Form for the Use of Tissues or Carcasses and an IACUC Animal Use Protocol is NOT necessary. These activities can proceed without alerting the IACUC.