

University at Buffalo Institutional Animal Care and Use Program

Policy on Determination of When IACUC Oversight Is Required

Introduction

At the University at Buffalo (UB), in order to utilize **live** animals for research, teaching or testing, approved IACUC protocols are generally, but not always required. Certain uses of animals do not fall under the purview of the IACUC. This policy clarifies the situations when a protocol is or is not required for live animals. (For animal tissues or carcasses, see IACUC Policy on the Use of Animal Tissues or Carcasses.) Concerning **vertebrate** animals and cephalopods, even if not required, it is often important for the UB IACUC to have notification of animals coming to campus for biosafety, security, personnel safety, liability, and public relations purposes. This is particularly important if USDA regulated animals are expected on campus for any reason.

Definitions

IACUC: An Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee is required by federal regulations for institutions that use animals in **research, teaching, and testing**. The IACUC has a key oversight role, including the review and approval of animal use protocols and inspection of animal facilities.

Vertebrate animal: Vertebrates are animals that have a backbone or spinal column. These animals include fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Cephalopod: A highly intelligent group of ocean dwelling invertebrates that includes squids, octopuses and cuttlefish. Current National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy excludes all invertebrates, including cephalopods from IACUC oversight when used for research, teaching or testing. However, because of their extraordinary intelligence, SUNY @ Buffalo wishes to require IACUC oversight should these species ever be utilized and meet policy requirements.

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

Policy

This policy outlines the UB IACUC requirements for necessity of an approved IACUC protocol.

1. **An IACUC Animal Use Protocol IS required** if any of the following criteria are met regarding either vertebrates or cephalopods:
 - a. IF an animal will be used for any **research** including field research.
 - b. IF an animal will be used for biological **testing**.
 - c. IF an animal will be used for **teaching or training** purposes which may be defined by ANY of the following:
 - i. Teaching occurs in the context of a formally offered course, or educational opportunity, or involving the interaction of vertebrate animal species.
 - ii. Training prepares students or staff for biomedical or animal research activities.

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- iii. Teaching (formal course or informal workshop) involves hands-on student contact (versus only exhibition by instructor).
- iv. Teaching (formal course or informal workshop) involves an activity with significant potential to be painful and/or invasive to the animal (i.e injections).

2. **An IACUC Animal Use Protocol is NOT required if:**

- a. Activity constitutes a non-research, non-teaching or non-testing activity involving privately owned animals.
 - b. Activities are ordered and/or performed by the Attending Veterinarian or their designee and involve only standard veterinary or emergency procedures necessary to ensure animal welfare of laboratory animals.
 - c. Activities involving retrieval or use of animal-related data from records.
 - d. Any activity involving invertebrate species with the exclusion of cephalopods.
 - e. Any activity involving live embryonated eggs of vertebrate species *as long as the eggs do not hatch*. Any inadvertent hatching of eggs should be immediately reported to the Attending Veterinarian who will oversee euthanasia via an approved method.
 - f. Removal of vertebrate vermin (pests).
3. If you are not sure if your proposed animal use activity requires IACUC approval, please contact the UB IACUC Office at 716-829-3977 or IACUC@research.buffalo.edu.
4. If your proposed animal activity does NOT require an IACUC approval:
- a. Please send a group email with a brief description of your activity to the following (minimum notification requirement):
 - i. IACUC: iacuc@research.buffalo.edu
 - ii. Attending Veterinarian: jpeirick@buffalo.edu
 - iii. Biosafety Officer: drp@buffalo.edu
 - iv. Associate Director, Environment, Health and Safety: dvasbind@buffalo.edu
 - b. Any other university requirements (non-IACUC) for bringing animals onto campus will be relayed by EH&S. These include but are not limited to: adhering to New York State Ag and Markets requirements for livestock species, adhering to New York State Department of Health requirements for petting zoos and adhering to New York State Rabies Vaccination and Licensing Laws for pets.
 - c. The IACUC can generate a “Memo of Exemption” upon written request. This is a written notice that describes an activity and states that it is exempt from IACUC oversight, enabling participants of non-covered activities to receive a written assurance of compliance for their records.
 - d. No animal work performed without a UB IACUC-approved protocol can be reported in any publication(s) as having been IACUC- approved by University at Buffalo’s IACUC.