



Best Practices: Animal Care and Use
Effective Date: August 2013

The Colleges and Universities in the State University of New York (SUNY) system will treat animals with consideration and respect, in accordance with a culture of care. The use of live animals carries with it a moral responsibility for the welfare of another living creature, as well as specific legal responsibilities.

Animal welfare is an important goal in its own right, as well as an integral element of good science and teaching. As part of this commitment, SUNY and the Research Foundation for SUNY (RF) share the obligation for the ethical conduct of activities involving live, vertebrate animals. This statement applies to the procurement, housing, care and use of live, non-human vertebrate animals involved in research, research training, experimentation, biological testing, teaching, and related activities.

Animal care and use of animals are governed by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) implementing regulations. Except where Public Health Service (PHS) sponsored animal use activities are involved, in which case, the care and use must comply with the PHS Policy and The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

All performance sites for the SUNY campus, on or off-campus, domestic or foreign are obligated to conform to ethical principles which are at least equivalent to those of the campus or as may be determined by the AWA, USDA regulations, or PHS Policy and The Guide.

Implementation of these best practices constitutes an important first step in achieving the ultimate goal of obtaining accreditation for an entity that accredits animal care and use programs.

Use of Animals in Research

Activities involving use of animals in research, under the USDA regulations or PHS Policy requires the establishment of a SUNY campus institutional animal care and use program, the designation of a campus Institutional Official, and the formation of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Animal Care and Use Committee

The IACUC is responsible for reviewing all protocols involving live vertebrate animals, ensuring compliance with federal regulations, inspecting animal facilities and laboratories and overseeing training and educational programs. The overall role of the IACUC is to ensure the humane and sensitive care and use of animals.

As part of its duties, the IACUC is authorized to suspend animal use activities that are not in compliance with applicable standards and investigate concerns about the care and use of animals at the SUNY campus. .

The IACUC has jurisdiction over all use of animals in research or teaching conducted under the auspices of the SUNY campus, regardless of funding source or performance site. Research under the auspices of the campus includes research:

- conducted at the campus;
- conducted by or under the direction of any SUNY or RF employee or agent of the campus (including students) in connection with his or her institutional responsibilities;
- conducted by or under the direction of any SUNY or RF employee or agent (including students) of the campus using any property or facility of the campus; or
- involving the use of the campus's non-public information.

The SUNY campus Institutional Official may review any research protocol and has the right to disapprove the implementation of a research protocol that has been approved by the IACUC. However, no one at the campus shall approve the implementation of any research protocol, nor override the decision of the IACUC concerning a research protocol that has been disapproved by the IACUC.

Institutional Official

The SUNY campus Institutional Official will have overall responsibility for the campus's animal care and use program. The duties of the Institutional Official are as follows:

- ensure that all animal care and use programs comply with applicable standards;
- ensure that all animal facilities and use areas comply with applicable standards;
- charge the IACUC to execute its assigned responsibilities thoroughly;
- insist upon high quality animal care programs and facilities; and
- support and promote research and instructional use of animals in compliance with existing standards.

The Institutional Official and the IACUC shall adopt and implement operating procedures for the use of animals on the SUNY campus. These procedures shall serve as the governing process for the conduct and review of all animal use conducted under the auspices of the campus, in conjunction with all other federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and Institutional policies, as applicable.

Public Health Service (PHS) Sponsored Animal Use Activities

When activities involve the use of animals sponsored by PHS, the SUNY campus must file a federal Assurance with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), in accordance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Animal Welfare Assurance - IV., A., 1. a. - i.). The Assurance will apply to all activities, research, research training, experimentation, biological testing, teaching and related activities involving live, vertebrate animals conducted at/by the campus.

Animal Care Facilities

SUNY campus animal care facilities must be registered with the USDA and the New York State Department of Health. The IACUC monitors the animal facilities in accordance with USDA and/or PHS requirements for the care and use of animals. The IACUC conducts semiannual inspections of all animal housing facilities, and animal research laboratories and performance sites for the campus, on or off-campus to ensure that these facilities meet federal and state mandated standards.

Resources

- Animal Welfare Act (AWA) - 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. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) implementing regulations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1, 2, and 3
- Health Research Extension Act of 1985- Public Law 99-158 enacted November 20, 1985, “Animals in Research” and Public Health Service implementing regulations
- Public Health Service (PHS) Policy - The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, amended August 2002
- The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide), National Academy Press, 1996, Washington, D.C.
- New York State (NYS) – Approval of Laboratories and Institutions for Use of Living Animals, 10NYCRR, SubPart 55-1