



IACUC Guidance:	<b>TAMU-G-020</b>	Title:	<b>IACUC Guidelines on the Adoption of Research Animals at Texas A&amp;M University</b>
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Location	Effective Date	Review By
<b>College Station/Dallas/Galveston</b>	07/01/2022	06/30/2025
<b>Houston/Kingsville</b>	08/01/2022	06/30/2025

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. This document provides guidelines for the permanent adoption of healthy, post-study research animals into long-term, caring private homes or farms.

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 2.1. The Attending Veterinarian or designee, will approve or disapprove any research animal adoption.
- 2.2. If animals are intended to be adopted at the end of the study, the AUP final disposition should include “adoption” as an option.
- 2.3. In cases where animals require specialized permits, it is the responsibility of the adoptee to obtain the permit. The adopter is responsible for any future medical care/support as may be required.

**3. DEFINITIONS AND/OR ACRONYMS**

- 3.1. **AUP:** Animal Use Protocol. Document submitted by the PI indicating the housing and procedures involving animals.
- 3.2. **AV:** Attending Veterinarian. Individual designated by Texas A&M University to fulfil the regulatory role of AV. May also describe veterinary staff who report directly to, and have delegated authority from the AV.
- 3.3. Centrally administered support service for animal research and teaching programs at Texas A&M University:
  - 3.3.1. **ARU:** Animal Resource Unit supports the College of Dentistry vivarium
  - 3.3.2. **CMP:** Comparative Medicine Program supports the Texas A&M College Station campus
  - 3.3.3. **PAR:** Program for Animal Resources supports the Institute of Biosciences and Technology vivarium
  - 3.3.4. **PRF:** Pharmaceutical Research Facility supports the Kingsville Pharmaceutical Science Facility vivarium
  - 3.3.5. **Sea Life:** The Sea Life Facility supports the Galveston campus
- 3.4. **FDA:** U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- 3.5. **IACUC:** Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Institutional body responsible for ensuring adherence to federal regulation and institutional policy relating to the care and use of animals in teaching, testing and research. Appointed by the Institutional Official.
- 3.6. **PI:** Principal Investigator. The individual who has ultimate administrative and programmatic responsibility for the design, execution, and management of a project utilizing vertebrate animals.
- 3.7. **USDA:** United States Department of Agriculture. USDA Animal Care, a unit under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, administers the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and associated Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR).

**4. GUIDELINES OR PROCEDURE**

- 4.1. Eligibility
  - 4.1.1. The adoption of genetically modified animals must be reviewed by the appropriate compliance unit to ensure compliance with regulatory guidelines.
  - 4.1.2. The animal must not have been subject to multiple major surgical procedures.
  - 4.1.3. The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs, or well-characterized product that is known to be safe.
  - 4.1.4. Immunosuppressed animals cannot be adopted.
  - 4.1.5. Animals with documented aggression towards humans cannot be adopted.
  - 4.1.6. Threatened or endangered species cannot be adopted.

- 4.1.7. Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents in the course of the study, are not eligible for adoption unless approved by the AV or designee and the Office of Biosafety.
- 4.1.8. Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
- 4.1.9. Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).

4.2. Procedures

- 4.2.1. The PI indicates that the animal is no longer needed for research, and states that s/he has no knowledge of any fact that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption and recommends the animal be offered for adoption. If the PI is aware of any conditions that may have an impact on the animal's suitability as a pet, this must be communicated to the AV and potential adopter.
- 4.2.2. The AV, or designee, will perform a physical examination, order diagnostics and initiate appropriate treatment plans to ensure current health.
  - 4.2.2.1. Diagnostic Testing (Bloodwork, urinalysis, fecal analysis etc.) will be performed as deemed appropriate by the AV or designee.
  - 4.2.2.2. Chronic health conditions will be documented. Animals with chronic health conditions may be suitable for adopters with appropriate experience, skill and interest.
  - 4.2.2.3. The AV, or designee, will perform a behavioral assessment, including a history of species-appropriate socialization and exposure to experiences common in private households.
    - 4.2.2.3.1. Animals with documented aggression toward people will not be eligible for adoption.
  - 4.2.2.4. Animals will be vaccinated, according to current veterinary standards and neutered, per standard veterinary practice, prior to adoption.
- 4.2.3. The AV, or designee, will interview an individual interested in adopting a research animal to determine the reasons for the adoption and the person's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare.
  - 4.2.3.1. Potential adopters:
    - 4.2.3.1.1. Will be screened for their suitability, knowledge of the required care of the animal, and qualifications.
    - 4.2.3.1.2. Must be willing and able to accept written responsible for the life-long care of the animal released to them by Texas A&M University, including future preventative and emergency veterinary care.
    - 4.2.3.1.3. Will be informed of potential animal health concerns during the review process.
    - 4.2.3.1.4. Will be provided with the health and behavior history of the animal upon transfer.
  - 4.2.3.2. Outside placement groups will be vetted with respect to:
    - 4.2.3.2.1. Review of group's mission statement
    - 4.2.3.2.2. Reputation
    - 4.2.3.2.3. History of animal placement work
    - 4.2.3.2.4. Criminal history, which may include a background check.
- 4.2.4. The PI or designee completes an Animal Adoption Agreement transferring ownership to the new owner.
  - 4.2.4.1. This form includes the health, potential health concerns and behavioral assessments, as determined by the AV, or designee.
  - 4.2.4.2. A copy of the Animal Adoption Agreement should be kept by ARU/CMP/PAR/PRF.
- 4.2.5. On the day the Animal Adoption Agreement is signed, the animal should be transferred from Texas A&M University facilities to the new owner. Once the animal leaves the facility, it is the possession of its new owner; Texas A&M University will no longer be responsible for the animal, its care or any damage it may cause.

4.3. Recordkeeping

- 4.3.1. For dog and cat adoptions, compliance with the USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations in Section 2.35 paragraphs (b), (c), and (e), and Section 2.38 is required.
  - 4.3.1.1. All dogs and cats need to be identified at time of disposition:

- 4.3.1.1.1. By the official tag or tattoo which was affixed to the animal at the time it was acquired by the research facility; or
- 4.3.1.1.2. By a tag, tattoo, or collar applied to the dog or cat by the research facility and which individually identifies the dog or cat by number.
- 4.3.1.2. The following information is required to be kept and maintained by the research facility:
  - 4.3.1.2.1. The name and address of the person to whom a dog or cat is transported, or otherwise disposed of.
  - 4.3.1.2.2. The date of transportation/disposition.
  - 4.3.1.2.3. The method of transportation, including the name of the initial carrier or intermediate handler, or if a privately owned vehicle is used to transport the dog or cat, the name of the owner of the privately owned vehicle.
  - 4.3.1.2.4. APHIS Form 7001- the USDA Interstate and International Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals and AAPHIS Form 7006 – Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats are forms which can be used to keep and maintain the required information.

## 5. EXCEPTIONS

- 5.1. The PI may request an exception to the above standards by describing the departure in the AUP
- 5.2. For programmatic exceptions, the facility director or manager may submit a request for the exception using TAMU-F-013

## 6. REFERENCES, MATERIALS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 6.1. References
  - 6.1.1. ACLAM Position Statement on Adoption of Research Animals. [J Am Assoc Lab Anim Sci](#). 2017 Nov; 56(6): 807. Published online 2017 Nov.
  - 6.1.2. United States., United States. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. 2005. Animal Welfare Act and animal welfare regulations. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
  - 6.1.3. AVMA Position Statement on Adoption of Research Dogs and Cats: <https://www.avma.org/policies/research-dogs-and-cats-adoption>
- 6.2. Resources
  - 6.2.1. CMP Animal Adoption Agreement
  - 6.2.2. PAR/PRF Animal Adoption Application
  - 6.2.3. Carbone L, Guanzini L, McDonald C. 2003. Adoption Options for Laboratory Animals. *Lab Animal* 32(9):37–41.
  - 6.2.4. National Research Council. 2011. Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals. National Academy Press: Washington, D.C.
  - 6.2.5. Federation of Animal Science Societies. 2010. Guide for the care and use of agricultural animals in research and teaching. Champaign, Il.: FASS, Federation of Animal Science Societies.
  - 6.2.6. PHS (Public Health Service). 1996. Public health service policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; [PL 99–158. Health Research Extension Act, 1985].
  - 6.2.7. CFR (Code of Federal Regulations). 2008. Title 9, Animals and animal products, subchapter a (animal welfare). Washington, D.C.: Office of Federal Register.
  - 6.2.8. Frequently Asked Questions: PHS policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#675>
  - 6.2.9. Sancenito J. 2014. Don't get bitten by your research animal adoption program. *Laboratory Animal Science Professional*, December: 29–30.
  - 6.2.10. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. 2016. NIH guidelines for research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.
- 6.3. For more information concerning adoption of research animals, please contact:



- 6.3.1. [CMP](#) at 979-845-7433
- 6.3.2. ARU: at (214) 828-8149
- 6.3.3. [PAR](#): at (713) 677-7471
- 6.3.4. PRF: at (361) 221-0770
- 6.3.5. Sea Life facility: at (409) 740-4574
- 6.4. [IACUC/AWO Referenced Documents](#): (requires TAMU NetID authentication)
  - 6.4.1. TAMU-F-013 Request for Programmatic Exception from Animal Welfare Standards
- 6.5. Acknowledgements
  - 6.5.1. This document contains materials adapted from Brown and Montclair State Universities.

**7. HISTORY**

Effective Date	Version #	Description
12/19/2019	000	College Station/Galveston: Partially replaces document entitled TAMU adoption form and policy_rev10_2018
02/25/2020	000	Administratively added AVMA Position Statement reference
03/09/2020	000	Administratively added location specific vivaria information to Definitions and References; removed AWO form reference for CMP adoption agreement in References
10/01/2020	001	Houston/Kingsville: New Document. Reviewed and approved via email.
12/15/2020	002	Dallas: New Document.
03/24/2022	003	College Station/Dallas/Galveston: Merging of Dallas animal care and use program with College Station/Galveston
07/01/2022	004	College Station/Dallas/Galveston: Renewal; updated definitions and references. Added Exceptions section. Reviewed and approved via email.
08/01/2022	005	Houston/Kingsville: Renewal; updated definitions and references. Added Exceptions section. Reviewed and approved via email.