

From: [REDACTED]
To: [APHIS-AnimalCare](#)
Subject: [External Email] IACUC Question
Date: Friday, September 9, 2022 11:56:10 AM
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Hello,

I am reaching out in hopes of obtaining clarification on how **7 U.S. Code § 2157** impacts a Class R facility's IACUC.

We are currently interpreting this regulation (and information on IACUC best practices) to mean that no information related to research protocol submissions may be discussed or released outside of the IACUC or research team unless:

- (1) written approval from the Principal Investigator;
- (2) information necessary for husbandry or animal health staff to complete their duties, or
- (3) under a law enforcement investigation or requested by USDA.

Is this a correct interpretation?

For exception #2, what information is included in this? We are interpreting it as "need to know" and would not constitute providing all documents or detailed information of the protocol. *Is this a correct interpretation?*

We have also been holding discussions on how best to comply with this regulation and meet our departmental and institutional needs. We have included an information release on our application form to allow the Principal Investigator to select which information protection they would like (e.g., no release, departmental meetings only, release with consent, or full release). *We were wondering if it was allowable to create and enforce a policy which required anyone conducting research with our facility to automatically allow for the release of information or if PIs were protected under this regulation to be given the option to release information or not.*

I appreciate any guidance that you can provide.

Thank you,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (she/her)
Zoological Compliance Administrator



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