## USE OF LIVE ANIMALS FOR TRAINING MEDICAL STUDENTS

**<u>Background</u>**: Experience with living animals is a valuable part of the education of future physicians for the following reasons:

- Physicians require mastery of techniques and skills that are best learned in living organisms.
- The experience of working with living organisms is of greater value than the experience of making measurements and collecting data on inanimate objects.
- Working with living organisms provides students with an awareness of the friability of living tissue and the biological variability of individuals.
- It is not possible to provide these learning experiences using human subjects.

## Policy:

**Student Participation and how to address student concerns:** It is the responsibility of the sponsoring department to determine whether or not students will have the option of being excused from participating in activities involving living animals. However, this is an important issue and must be carefully considered. If it is possible to learn the material in some other manner, then the necessity for using live animals is called into question.

Some students may refuse to participate in animal experiments regardless of the justification. Nevertheless it is important that all students are well informed about the goals and procedures of the training beforehand so that those not categorically opposed to animal use may make an informed decision. Therefore, the following information should be conveyed to the students in advance of the course.

- All animals are legally obtained.
- Students will not be required to euthanize the animals.
- The decision to use animals is made only after carefully weighing the educational merits against all other considerations, including alternatives.
- All instructional use of animals must be approved by the Chairperson of the sponsoring department and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
- For any potentially painful procedure, the animals are anesthetized and monitored throughout the entire procedure by trained veterinary technicians or veterinarians.
- If students are still concerned about the educational value or appropriateness of live animal use, they should resolve those concerns with the chairperson of the sponsoring department. Any questions they may have about how animals are treated should be directed to the Chairperson of the IACUC, DCM Veterinarian or Research Integrity Office Compliance Manager.

## Responsibilities of the Instructor:

- Instructors must have completed Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) education and have attended animal training courses. They must also be experienced in the handling of animals and the procedures to be carried out.
- Instructors must complete the OHSU Animal Usage Protocol and receive approval from the IACUC prior to purchasing or boarding the animals and prior to the start of the class.
- Instructors must inform students about the proposed use of animals (see above).

- Instructors must inform students that they are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in keeping with the seriousness of the learning process and enforce this standard.
- Instructors must be certain that the standards of humane care are adhered to at all times. Information about these standards is available from the Department of Comparative Medicine.
- Animals must be euthanized at the earliest appropriate time to avoid undue distress to the animals.

**Review and approval for teaching protocols:** Persons wishing to use live animals for instructional purposes must submit an OHSU Animal Usage Protocol Form to the IACUC for review and approval. In addition, they must also include a letter endorsing the proposed protocol from the chairperson of the sponsoring department. Once the IACUC has approved the protocol, the training class may be held. Any changes to the protocol must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to implementation.