Background

The 9 CFR (Animal Welfare Act Regulations) recordkeeping regulations and official policies offer institutions the option of developing and implementing an adoption policy. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is supportive of the concept of adoption but reminds institutions that NIH grant funds may not be used to support the cost of the adoption program.

Policy

An animal may be considered for adoption if adoption is described and approved by the IACUC in the animal use protocol as a method of animal disposition.

Procedures

I. Requirements for adoption of OHSU-owned animals include:
   A. Animals may be approved for adoption only to OHSU employees or their immediate families. Individuals not affiliated with OHSU, rescue organizations, pounds, shelters, and other third parties are not eligible.
   B. The animal must no longer be involved in existing or future research or teaching activity.
   C. The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior for adoption as determined by the Attending Veterinarian, or designee.
   D. Any dog or cat being considered for adoption must be neutered or spayed by the OHSU DCM veterinary staff using appropriate OHSU facilities prior to adoption.
   E. The Principal Investigator will be responsible for the cost of all husbandry and veterinary care, vaccinations, treatments, drugs and any other support, including surgical procedures, provided to the animal prior to adoption and transfer of ownership to the adopter. No NIH grant funds may be used for such costs.
   F. OHSU will not be responsible for any and all future veterinary and behavioral care as may be required following adoption and transfer of ownership.
   G. Animals must be adopted as permanent pets of the adopter or his/her immediate family and must not be used for any other purpose including resale, used for food, or used as working animals.
   H. Transgenic animals, animals treated with any biohazard, and animals injected with recombinant DNA (rDNA) are not eligible for adoption without proper authorization, when applicable, from the OHSU Institutional Biosafety Committee and other public regulatory agencies (e.g., U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Office of Biotechnology Activities; United States Department of Agriculture).
I. Non-human primates are not eligible for adoption.

J. The Principal Investigator and Attending Veterinarian must provide final approval of all adoptions.

K. Experimental procedures or spontaneous conditions that cause persistent health concerns may preclude an animal from being considered a reasonable adoption candidate.

I. Initiation of Adoption
   A. Potential adopters may request adoption from the Principal Investigator, who, if the Principal Investigator approves of proceeding with consideration of the adoption request, must then provide written permission for the adoption to the Attending Veterinarian.
   B. Potential adopters will be screened by a DCM veterinarian and the PI for their suitability, qualifications, and knowledge of appropriate care required for the animal.

II. Veterinary Examination
   A. A DCM veterinarian will review the research protocol and the animal’s clinical record to determine suitability for adoption and potential health or behavioral concerns. Certain experimental procedures such as major experimental surgery, immunosuppression, or other procedures may make an animal unsuitable for adoption.
   B. The DCM veterinarian should consider whether removal of any implants is appropriate prior to offering an animal for adoption. If so, the veterinarian shall arrange to have the surgical procedure performed.
   C. The DCM veterinarian will discuss with the adopter any potential health or behavioral concerns for the animal that previous usage may have created.
   D. If requested by the adopter, a summary of the animal’s clinical record will be provided after review by the Attending Veterinarian. A complete physical examination will be performed by a DCM veterinarian prior to the adoption. To qualify for adoption, animals should be deemed clinically healthy, of appropriate disposition, and free of internal and external parasites.
   E. Diagnostic testing and/or appropriate vaccinations may be ordered and administered prior to adoption, as deemed necessary by the examining veterinarian. The Principal Investigator will be responsible for payment of all costs that are incurred for these procedures.
   F. Prior to adoption, sexually intact dogs or cats of an acceptable age will be required to undergo surgical sterilization. The Principal Investigator will be responsible for payment of all costs that are incurred for these procedures.
   G. The DCM Attending Veterinarian will make a final determination regarding whether the animal would make a reasonable adoption candidate based on the research history and physical examination. The Attending Veterinarian must provide final written approval prior to adoption.

III. Transfer of Ownership
   A. At the time of adoption, a note will be made in the animal’s permanent clinical record and Final Disposition form that the animal was adopted out as a private pet (AWAR-covered species).
   B. The Animal Adoption Agreement will be signed and copied; one copy to the adopter and one copy to be included in the permanent animal record.
   C. Once the animal leaves OHSU and it is in the possession of its new owner, OHSU will no longer be responsible for the animal or any related health care or behavioral concerns.
REFERENCES


I, ______________________, agree to adopt and accept the animal described below from the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and agree to be fully responsible for the care, treatment, actions, and well-being of this animal. I agree to furnish care to the animal in a manner generally accepted as appropriate for a pet of this species and in accordance with applicable law. Furthermore, I acknowledge that I am adopting this animal solely as my personal pet and not for resale, use for food, use as a working animal, nor use in any illegal or harmful activity that may have adverse effects upon the animal.

I acknowledge that the animal referenced below has been examined by OHSU’s Attending Veterinarian (AV) or AV-designee. Any health conditions or abnormal conditions known to exist at the time of adoption have been explained to me, and I affirm that I am capable of handling all the obligations connected with the care and treatment of the animal. I have had an opportunity to ask the examining veterinarian any health- and care-related questions, and each question has been answered to my satisfaction. I am fully aware that this animal has been the subject of a research study at OHSU, which has been discussed with me by the examining veterinarian. I understand that OHSU does not make any express or implied guarantees relative to the health or temperament of the animal. I acknowledge that I have been given the opportunity to obtain a summary of the clinical records of the animal.

The OHSU veterinary staff will make a reasonable attempt to assure that the animal is up-to-date on vaccines and be generally healthy when it is adopted. I understand that because of biosecurity concerns, OHSU cannot accept the return of the animal to OHSU once I adopt the animal. Further, I understand that OHSU accepts no liability for the animal’s continuing care or veterinary treatment, or for any damages arising from my ownership of the animal once it has been removed from OHSU. The AV strongly encourages that the adopted animal be seen by a veterinarian in private practice as soon as possible after the adoption.

Animal ID: __________________    Signalment: ____________________________________________
By signing below, I understand that a pet is a long-term commitment, and the pet will be totally dependent on me for its care every day for years to come. I agree to accept full responsibility for this animal, including any and all future costs related to the animal’s care, housing, behaviors and well-being. Accordingly, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify OHSU, its directors, officers, employees and agents, from and against any and all liability, damages, settlements, loss, costs and expenses suffered or incurred in connection with any action, suit, or claim, of any kind or nature resulting from or arising out of my adoption, possession, or control of the animal. I have completely and thoroughly read this Animal Adoption Agreement and agree that all the terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted for the purpose of making a full and final adoption of the animal.

ADOPTING OWNER (adopter)  ATTENDING VETERINARIAN  PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

__________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________
Name (printed)  Name (printed)  Name (printed)

__________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________
Street Address  Date of Adoption Approval  Date of Adoption Approval

__________________________________  ____________________________________  ____________________________________
City, State, Zip  Signature  Signature

__________________________________
Telephone Number

__________________________________
Date

__________________________________
Signature