

Animal Care and Use Program Policy

Response to Animal Welfare Concerns

Version 1.0

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Research Integrity Office

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Background

Safeguarding animal welfare is the responsibility of every individual associated with the activities conducted by and at OHSU that have an impact on the well-being of animals. OHSU must maintain methods for reporting and investigating animal welfare concerns, and employees should be aware of the importance of and mechanisms for reporting animal welfare concerns.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals working with animals used in teaching or research at OHSU.

Policy

OHSU supports the humane treatment of laboratory animals associated with research projects or instruction and requires any individual with an animal welfare concern to report that concern to the appropriate authorities at OHSU for review and potential response.

Procedures

- I. Any individual having an animal welfare concern at OHSU must report that concern. Each OHSU campus provides mechanisms for reporting animal welfare concerns. Animal welfare concerns may be reported to any of the following individuals or offices:
 - A. West Campus Ombudsman Program (report can be made anonymously)
 - B. Research Integrity Officers (RIO) on each campus
 - C. Attending Veterinarians on each campus
 - D. IACUC Chair on each campus
 - E. OHSU Integrity Hotline (report can be made anonymously at 877-733-8313)
- II. The information provided in a report should be as specific as possible with regard to the date, time, species involved, names of the relevant OHSU personnel, and any other supporting information. Whether or not a report is made in confidence or anonymously, the situation will be dealt with confidentially to the extent reasonably possible.
- III. No OHSU employee, IACUC member, or laboratory personnel will be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for reporting in good faith violations of any regulations or standards under the Animal Welfare Act, PHS Policy, or any other applicable regulation.
- IV. The mechanisms for reporting will be posted in prominent locations identified by the IACUC on each campus and on applicable OHSU websites.
- V. All reported animal welfare concerns will be forwarded to the RIO who will convene the IACUC Leadership Team Subcommittee (sILT) to investigate the concern. The Attending Veterinarian will be contacted immediately after receipt of the report to assure animal well-being.
- VI. The findings of the investigation by the sILT will be brought to the IACUC Leadership Team (ILT) to determine the validity of the concern and, if required, recommend the course of action to resolve and mitigate the concern. The ILT will report all animal welfare concerns, including those

concerns determined by the ILT to not be valid or not supported by evidence, to the appropriate IACUC with its findings and recommendations. The IACUC will review the reported animal welfare concerns and ILT findings and recommendations and make a determination on the validity of the animal welfare concern and the appropriate corrective action, or require further investigation. The IACUC will report all animal welfare concerns determined as valid to the Institutional Official.

- VII. If the animal welfare concern involves an IACUC protocol, the IACUC will decide how to proceed. This may include notification to the department head, an interview with the PI, and/or suspension of the protocol. Suspension or termination of the protocol will be determined at an IACUC meeting in accordance with OHSU policy and procedures.
- VIII. If the animal welfare concern is reported to the West Campus Ombudsman Program, the RIO will report the non-confidential findings of the investigation to the Ombudsman to be communicated back to the person reporting the concern. If the person bringing the animal welfare concern is not anonymous, the RIO will communicate with the person directly.
- IX. If the IACUC determines that the reported animal welfare concern is a reportable incident, the IO, OLAW, USDA and /or AAALAC will be notified, as applicable, as defined in the Reportable Situations Policy.
- X. Reported concerns and any corrective action will be documented.

Definitions

IACUC Leadership Team (ILT); The ILT is composed of the IACUC Chairs, RIOs and Attending Veterinary (AV), Scientific Research Liaison, Policy Advisor to the IO, and Chief Integrity Officer.

IACUC Leadership Team Subcommittee (sILT) on each OHSU Campus, the RIO, Attending Veterinarian and IACUC Chair.

Authority

PHS Policy
Animal Welfare Act

Reference

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Ed, 2012, p 24-25