

Animal Care and Use Program Policy



Transfer of Research Animals Between Protocols

Version: 1.0
Date Effective: 06/12/2013

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BACKGROUND

The practice of transferring animals between Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocols is considered to be a universal and standard practice among biomedical research institutions. However, transfers must be documented, tracked, and approved by DCM-C (Department of Comparative Medicine Central and Waterfront Campus), or DCM-W (Division of Comparative Medicine West Campus) in order to:

- A. avoid unauthorized use;
- B. avoid multiple unrelated major survival procedures;
- C. ensure animals are properly accounted for on IACUC protocols;
- D. minimize biosecurity concerns; and,
- E. manage veterinary health records appropriately.

In accordance with federal regulations which emphasize the avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress or pain to animals used in research, the OHSU IACUC has adopted the following policy regarding the use of the same animal(s) in multiple protocols.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the use of all laboratory animals except NHP on West Campus.

POLICY

The IACUC authorizes DCM to grant approval for the transfer of animals from one protocol to another. The nature of the additional experimental use, the level of discomfort, distress, or pain that it may entail, and the risk to biosecurity will be considered before animals are approved for transfer.

PROCEDURES

- I. Investigator(s) seeking approval for transfer of animals from one protocol to another should first contact DCM-C or DCM-W as appropriate and submit the completed animal transfer request form.
- II. The destination protocol must be approved by the IACUC and it must contain a description of the experimental work that will be conducted on the transferred animals.
- III. If transfer between protocols will be a routine or anticipated component of any protocol, the protocol from which the animals will be transferred should include an indication that animals may be transferred along with a general description of the nature of the testing and/or procedures that will be performed on them following transfer.

- IV. The IACUC policy titled Multiple Survival Surgeries must be considered if the transfer results in performance of multiple survival surgeries on the transferred animals.
- V. DCM will evaluate transfer requests on a case-by-case basis and make a decision regarding the transfer. Appeal of a decision regarding an animal transfer request may be made to the subcommittee of the IACUC Leadership Team for that campus (sILT).

AUTHORITY

The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals; (PHS Policy)

Animal Welfare Act. 9 CFR (AWA)

REFERENCES

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th ed. 2011; pg 108.