

Animal Care and Use Program Policy

Use of Live Animals For Training Medical Students



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Version 2.0

Date Effective: May 30, 2013

Background

Experience with living animals is a valuable part of the education of future physicians for the following reasons:

- I. Physicians require mastery of techniques and skills that are best learned in living organisms.
- II. The experience of working with living organisms is of greater value than the experience of making measurements and collecting data on inanimate objects.
- III. Working with living organisms provides students with an awareness of the friability of living tissue and the biological variability of individuals.
- IV. It is not possible to provide these learning experiences using human subjects.
- V. Provides a learning environment where future physicians further their respect for all living organisms including humans.

Scope

This policy applies to all activities that use live animals to train medical students.

Policy

Persons wishing to use live animals for instructional purposes must submit an OHSU Protocol Form to the IACUC for review and approval. In addition, they must also include a letter endorsing the proposed protocol from the Chair 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.

Procedures

The following information should be conveyed to the students in advance of the course.

- I. All animals are legally obtained.
- II. Students will not be required to euthanize the animals.
- III. The decision to use animals is made only after carefully weighing the educational merits against all other considerations, including alternatives.
- IV. For any potentially painful procedure, the animals are anesthetized and monitored throughout the entire procedure by trained veterinary technicians or veterinarians.
- V. The minimum number of animals for optimal learning will be used.
- VI. If the animals are euthanized, they will be euthanized as recommended by the Panel on Euthanasia of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

- VII. All instructional use of animals has been approved by the Chair of the sponsoring department and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.
- VIII. Concerns regarding animal welfare should be directed to the Chair of the IACUC, DCM Veterinarian or Research Integrity Officer. Concerns may also be registered anonymously through the integrity hotline <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/services/integrity/>

Authority

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

Animal Welfare Act. 9 CFR (Sect. 2.36(b)(1) and (4))

References

1. Association of American Medical Colleges policy on the use of animals in medical education and research <https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/animals/>
2. American Physiological Society Position Statements on the Use of Animals in Research. <http://www.the-aps.org/mm/hp/Audiences/Public-Press/For-the-Press/releases/10/26.html>
3. TheAVMAGuidelineonEuthanasia(2007)
<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>