

GUIDELINES ON COUNTING THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS ON A PROTOCOL

PURPOSE:

The Liberty University IACUC has established the following guidelines for counting animals used for teaching, research, or breeding at LU. For the purposes of this document, *animal* shall refer to any non-human vertebrate.

GUIDELINES:

When counting the number of animals on a protocol, use the following guidelines set forth by the Liberty University IACUC:

- The PI must maintain current, accurate records of animal use in his or her approved protocol, including any animals purchased, transferred, or bred for the purposes of the protocol.
- Each animal should only be counted once for the duration of the protocol.
- Animals that must be counted include:
 - Animals purchased or transferred onto the protocol
 - Any animals bred for the protocol (must be counted at first observation of live birth).
 - Animals that are not born “alive” do not need to be counted. If 5 pups are born in a litter, but only 2 are alive, “2” would be the number counted on the protocol.
- An “animal welfare walkthrough” shall be performed on a routine basis by vivarium staff in order to maintain an accurate count of animals.
 - The vivarium staff member conducting the walkthrough will make note of any unusual behavior or animal death, which will then be reported to the responsible PI.