

POLICY REGARDING INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL RESEARCH

PURPOSE:

The Liberty University IACUC understands that investigators may, at times, perform animal research at offsite locations, or that other institutions may perform animal research on the Liberty University campus. This document provides a framework for decision making regarding the responsibility for the care and use of the animals.

POLICY:

Liberty University must adhere to the applicable laws and regulations regarding animal use outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture, or USDA, for species regulated by the Animal Welfare Act, and the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, or OLAW, for species regulated by the Public Health Service Policy. The status of any offsite facility may impact whether the Liberty University IACUC is required to obtain an inter-institutional Assurance, include the facility in the Liberty University IACUC Program Description, conduct semi-annual facility inspections, program reviews, or other oversight.

USDA STATEMENT

Assigns responsibility for offsite animals to the institution that owns the animals. If more than one institution is involved, responsibility for the animals being used is shared by the institution providing housing and care, and the institution that is involved in the planning and execution of the study. If an owning institution has a say in how offsite animals are used, then that institution has responsibility for the animals. Liberty University must ensure that the offsite facility is a registered research facility with the USDA, has an approved Veterinary Care Program in place, and has an IACUC which reviews the program of animal care and conducts facility inspections.

OLAW STATEMENT

Requires that the awardee institution be responsible for ensuring that all terms and conditions of the award, including the PHS animal welfare policy, are met. Jurisdiction in this case is based on the source of funding, not ownership. PHS Policy requires that all awardees and each performance site hold an approved Animal Welfare Assurance. OLAW negotiates Inter-Institutional Agreement Assurances of Compliance when an awardee institution without an animal care and use program or an IACUC will rely on the program of an Assured institution. Assured institutions have the option to amend their Assurance to cover non-assured performance sites, which effectively subjugates the performance site to the Assured institution and makes the Assured institution responsible for the performance site. If both institutions have full PHS Assurances, they may exercise discretion in determining which IACUC reviews protocols and under which institutional program the research will be performed. It is recommended that if an IACUC defers protocol review to another IACUC, then documentation of the review shall be maintained by both committees. Similarly, an IACUC needs to know about any significant questions or issues raised during a semi-annual program inspection by another IACUC of a facility housing a research activity for which that IACUC bears some responsibility or exposure.

In many instances, such an agreement requires IACUC decision making on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, the Liberty University IACUC must adhere to all federal, state, local, and institutional regulations and policies.