

POLICY REGARDING NON-COMPLIANCE

PURPOSE:

The Liberty University IACUC is responsible for the oversight of all active animal research or teaching protocols at the University. Part of this responsibility is to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local laws. This document serves to outline instances of non-compliance, and indicate the extent of any follow-up actions.

POLICY:

Any issues or reports of non-compliance will be investigated by the IACUC, and any resulting work required to remedy the problem(s) may be charged to the PI. Such charges might include professional veterinary consultation, diagnostic charges, per diem, etc.

NON-COMPLIANCE INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Animal neglect or animal cruelty
- Conducting animal research that does not have an approved IACUC protocol
- Performance of procedures by personnel who are not listed on the approved protocol
- The use of anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizers, antibiotics, or other medications that are not specifically listed on the approved protocol, are different from those listed on the protocol, or are not used in accordance with applicable law, protocol, or policy
- Survival surgery without the use of aseptic technique.*
- Euthanasia procedures that differ from the approved protocol, or use of a method that has not been approved, or failure to use a method for ensuring death
- Lack of adequate training on the part of laboratory personnel for the procedures listed in the approved IACUC protocol
- Failure to provide or keep an accurate record of supporting documentation for animal care, post-op evaluations, or other study procedures
- Unsafe conditions for either the animals or laboratory personnel
- The use of outdated or expired materials, including drugs, experimental agents, suture, sterile supplies, etc.
- Animal overcrowding, or the failure to follow standard breeding practices
- Animal work conducted outside of approved facilities
- Animals are not acquired or transferred as stated in the approved protocol
- Housing and husbandry standards are not met

**Note: A dedicated surgical suite is not required for rodents and non-mammalian vertebrates. However, this is the most desirable option and shall be used if available.*

PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING AND HANDLING NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUES

1. The IACUC office will notify the PI of the deficiency and document the issue to be reported to the IACUC and if applicable, the IO.
2. Generally, the compliance issue will be resolved with immediate corrective actions.
3. Depending on the severity of the compliance issue, it may be necessary to immediately contact the University Veterinarian, dmcguirt@liberty.edu, or the IACUC office, iacuc@liberty.edu.

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- a. Any non-compliance issue that represents a threat to the health and safety of the animals or laboratory personnel would require such notification, as would any substantial deviations from the approved protocol.
4. The IACUC Chair, in consultation with the University Veterinarian, will decide whether the non-compliance issue must be reported.

IACUC ACTIONS

1. Require additional training for the PI and/or laboratory staff.
2. Require that the PI appear at the next IACUC meeting for discussion.
3. Require that the University Veterinarian take over animal care under the animal holding policy, where the PI would be responsible for any associated costs.
4. Temporarily suspend animal use privileges.
5. Notify the PI's department head, dean, and/or the IO.

SERIOUS OR UNRESOLVED ISSUES

1. Are additional actions required to resolve the compliance issue(s)?
2. Will animal use privileges and protocol approvals be suspended or revoked?
3. Is additional reporting of follow-up reporting to OLAW, USDA, AAALAC, and any funding agencies necessary?