

POLICY REGARDING THE REVIEW OF ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS

PURPOSE:

This policy serves to outline the process by which the Liberty University IACUC reviews and responds to reported concerns of animal welfare or protocol deficiencies.

POLICY:

The 8th edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals lists among the IACUC's oversight functions the "establishment of a mechanism for receipt and review of concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution."

Any alleged reports of animal abuse or mistreatment shall be investigated by the LU IACUC. All claims will be kept confidential, and any persons making such a report will be free to do so without fear or reprisal. Reports may also be made anonymously.

REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY TO REVIEW WELFARE CONCERNS

The regulations issued pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act [9 CFR §2.31(c)(4)] and the Public Health Service Policy, Section IV.B.4, require that:

The IACUC review, and, if warranted, investigate concerns involving the care and use of animals at the research facility that result from received public complaints or reports of noncompliance from laboratory or research facility personnel or employees.

In accordance with the AWA, [(9 CFR Ch. 1), Part 2-Subpart C, 2.32 (b),(c)(4)]:

Training and instruction shall be made available as to how deficiencies in animal care and use can be reported by any employee of the facility. No facility employee, committee member or laboratory personnel shall be discriminated against or subject to any reprisal for reporting violations of any regulation or standards under the Act.

MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING

- Reporting Posters in Animal Use Facilities
 - Prominently displayed in each applicable animal facility;
 - Distributed to investigators' laboratories during the semi-annual facility inspection so that it may be re-posted at that time;
 - Distributed at laboratory training sessions to all those involved with animal use in teaching or research;
 - Distributed during workshops, seminars, and other training sessions regarding laws, regulations, policies, and procedures involving animal care, treatment and use.
- The Liberty University IACUC Website
 - Contains a link to an anonymous reporting form
 - Contains contact information for reporting to the IACUC, IACUC Chair, University Veterinarian, or the IACUC Office

REPORTING CONCERNS

- Anonymously
 - a. The IACUC Website
- Directly
 - a. The IACUC Chair
 - b. The IACUC Office
 - c. The University Veterinarian
 - d. Responsible Principal Investigator(s)
 - e. Overseeing Laboratory Manager(s)

Note: The above concerns may be reported in person, via telephone, via e-mail, or in writing.

IACUC HANDLING OF CONCERNS

- 1) Individuals shall be free to report concerns related to animal care, treatment, and use at Liberty University without fear of reprisal.
- 2) Any reported concerns will be forwarded in writing to the IACUC chair and the IO (if they have not already been advised).
- 3) The IACUC chair will convene the committee and present the problem for discussion.
- 4) IACUC will review the matter and make recommendations that will be conveyed to the IO and the attending veterinarian.
- 5) Depending on the nature of the concern, the IACUC chair, the university veterinarian, and/or the IO will take appropriate action(s).
 - a. The above persons will ensure that there is no reprisal against the individual reporting the concern.