



## **Policy on Reporting Unanticipated Outcomes Affecting Animal Well-Being**

The University of Georgia is committed to the humane care of the animals used in its research and instructional activities. The UGA IACUC recognizes that in the course of scientific inquiry there is the potential for unexpected outcomes that may affect animal well-being. Federal laws, regulations, and policies require continued institutional oversight of animal use activities after IACUC approval. Principal Investigators participate centrally in this oversight by reporting any unanticipated outcomes to the IACUC.

### **Policy**

**It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to promptly report any unanticipated outcomes that negatively affect animal well-being to a Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, the Office of Animal Care & Use or the IACUC.**

Examples of unanticipated outcomes which must be reported include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The phenotype of a genetically modified or mutant animal is discovered to include an unexpected condition that negatively affects animal well-being.
- Physical restraint of an animal results in lesions, illness, or behavioral changes.
- A surgical procedure causes unexpected complications.
- An unexpected or higher than expected incidence of complications, illness, or morbidity that negatively affects animal well-being, due to the experiment (e.g. infection, treatment), instructional procedures, or other unanticipated events (e.g. power loss).

**In the event of unanticipated death / death from unknown causes and euthanasia due to unanticipated morbidity (see examples above), the carcass should be preserved by refrigeration ASAP to allow for necropsy. In accordance with the USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations, this policy requires necropsy for regulated animals when cause of death is not clear. The mechanism for necropsy is at the discretion of the URAR Laboratory Animal Veterinarians.**

### **Procedure**

The Principal Investigator or their designee must contact a Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, the Office of Animal Care & Use or the IACUC in writing as soon as an unanticipated adverse outcome is identified or

suspected. The Veterinarian and IACUC will work with the researcher to assess the situation, and develop a plan for improving the well-being of the affected animals and revising the AUP (e.g. anesthesia, procedural method, monitoring interval, humane endpoints) as needed to ensure the well-being of the animals in ongoing and future studies.

### **References**

- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*), NRC, 2010.
- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (*FASS Guide*), FASS, 2010.
- Animal Welfare Regulations, 9 CFR, chapter I, subchapter A.