



Policy on Adoption

The UGA IACUC supports adoption of healthy, post-study/post-instruction, research and teaching animals into long-term, caring private homes or farms that can provide appropriate and humane living conditions for these animals. The IACUC encourages adoption of these animals whenever appropriate, however, adoption is sometimes not appropriate. Therefore, all adoptions of research and teaching animals must be reviewed and approved by a standing subcommittee of the IACUC, the Adoption Subcommittee.

Factors that are considered regarding an animal's nomination for adoption:

- The PI has determined that the animal is suitable for adoption and has shared the animal's availability.
- The animal is not available for transfer to another research or instructional project.
- The animal is not available to be sold by UGA as property.
- The animal to be adopted has been requested for adoption by an individual adopter.
- The animal should be vaccinated and spay/neutered before adoption, as appropriate.
- The animal's behavior is suitable for adoption.
- The animal's health is suitable for adoption.
- The animal is not a risk to public health or animal health due to treatment with a biohazard or chemical hazard.
- Adoption of genetically modified animals must comply with all applicable regulatory guidelines.
- The adopter plans to keep the animal permanently; post-adoption transfers are discouraged.
- The adopter must be informed of known and potential animal health concerns.
- The adopter should be willing and able to accept responsibility for the life-long care of the animal.
- The adopter must be a UGA employee or student, with some connection to the PI or University Research Animal Resources. If the adopter is not a UGA employee or student with such a connection, a specific exception is required.
- Animals that have been housed in the AHRC and poultry housed at PDRC are not eligible for adoption.

The UGA IACUC *Animal Adoption Standard Operating Procedure*, located under "Forms and Tools" on the Office of Animal Care and Use website, provides details regarding the adoption application process.

References:

1. ACLAM Position Statement: Adoption of Research Animals (2017)
2. CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 2008. Title 9, Animals and Animal Products, Subchapter A (Animal Welfare). Washington, D.C.: Office of Federal Register.
3. OLAW Frequently Asked Questions: PHS policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#675>