



### **Policy on Appropriate Animal Housing Locations**

The IACUC is responsible for the oversight of UGA's Animal Care and Use Program, including the animal housing facilities. This responsibility includes assuring that the housing, husbandry, and veterinary care provided at each facility meet the standards of the NIH *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*, and the Animal Welfare Act Regulations, as applicable.

Animals may only be housed in IACUC-approved locations that are appropriate for the funding type, species, and research or instructional activity. As such, there are restrictions about which animal facilities or satellite housing locations may be used for a specific project.

- Animals used for projects supported by PHS or NSF funding may only be housed in animal facilities or satellite facilities included in UGA's PHS/OLAW Animal Welfare Assurance and AAALAC, International accredited program. These include the University Research Animal Resources (URAR) animal facilities, the Animal Health Research Center, the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center, Oconee County Farm, Riverbend Farm, some locations at Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, and select, approved satellite housing locations.
- Animal species have varied housing and husbandry requirements. Thus, they may only be housed in animal facilities or satellite housing locations that meet these needs. Additional requirements must be met for species regulated by the USDA under the Animal Welfare Act, such as enhanced oversight to ensure the provision of appropriate housing, husbandry, veterinary care and record keeping. Therefore, USDA regulated species may only be housed in locations managed by URAR, or with specific IACUC approval on a case-by-case basis.
- Animals used for biomedical research, regardless of the funding source, must be housed in locations which meet specific housing and husbandry standards. Therefore, animals used for biomedical research may only be housed in locations managed by URAR, or with specific IACUC approval on a case-by-case basis.
- The appropriateness and acceptability of a housing location may also be limited by other factors, such as aspects of the research or instructional project, (e.g., the use of biohazards or hazardous chemicals), the condition of the proposed facility, or IACUC accessibility.
- When research funded through UGA involves housing animals at non-UGA locations, the Office of Animal Care and Use will provide guidance for establishing the appropriate inter-institutional agreements.
- Discussions about creating, renovating, or repurposing animal facilities should include the IACUC and URAR at the outset, because the anticipated research projects, funding type, and species will dictate the required housing and management standards.

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### Animal activities/species regulated by the USDA Animal Welfare Act include:

- Most mammals, regardless of the activity: dogs; cats; NHPs; rabbits; ferrets; wild mammals; and rodents other than rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for research
- Horses and other agricultural animals used for 1) biomedical research or 2) instruction of medical professional students, such as veterinary and veterinary technician students
- Wild-caught birds: Birds not hatched in captivity
- The use of non-mammals other than wild-caught birds is not regulated.

### References:

- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*), NRC, 1996, 2010.
- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (*Ag Guide*), The American Dairy Science Association, American Society of Animal Science, and the Poultry Science Association, 2020.
- Animal Welfare Regulations, 9 CFR, chapter I, subchapter A.

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