



Charter

I. Purpose

The purpose of this charter is to describe the mission, scope, authority, and components of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of Georgia (UGA) for the assurance that the welfare of all vertebrate animals used in research and teaching is protected. Animal use solely for production purposes (no research or teaching) does not fall under any federal regulatory purview regarding IACUC oversight. However, the University of Georgia is still responsible for the humane care and use of all animals involved with UGA activities.

II. Mission Statement

The mission of the UGA IACUC shall be to promote the humane care and use of vertebrate animals used in research and teaching. By adhering to the principles outlined in U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training, the Animal Welfare Act, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and other applicable regulations and guidance (see IV Guiding Principles) the IACUC shall facilitate institutional compliance that perpetuates the ethical, humane, and lawful use of animals.

III. Scope

This Committee shall be responsible for initial and continuing review of all research and teaching projects using live vertebrate animals at UGA, regardless of source or funding. For projects at other institutions with which the university has formal agreements via subgrants/subcontracts, the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) establishes a written MOU with the other institution verifying that their IACUC is responsible for direct oversight of the project at the other institution. UGA's IACUC is also charged with the review of the institutional Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) to ensure compliance with all regulatory standards. With these oversight responsibilities the IACUC has the authority to:

- Approve, require modifications to secure approval, or disapprove any research, testing, or teaching activities involving animals
- Suspend or terminate activities not being conducted in accord with the IACUC's requirements
- Suspend or terminate principal investigator and personnel access to animals following misconduct
- Require modifications to animal facilities having been inspected and noted deficient to ensure regulatory standards are met
- Establish a mechanism for reporting and review of concerns involving the care and use of live vertebrates
- Develop policies and guidelines for the use of animals at UGA
- Provide oversight and evaluate the effectiveness of the training program for personnel performing activities involving animals

IV. Guiding Principles

The University of Georgia's animal use policies and operating procedures shall facilitate compliance with applicable federal regulations, guidance, and state laws governing animal use in research and teaching including primarily the following:

- Animal Welfare Act
- Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- United States Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching
- AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
- Applicable Georgia laws

V. Organization and Membership

The IACUC shall be comprised of members appointed by the president of the University of Georgia or his/her designee. Committee membership must include, at minimum, the following: a doctor of veterinary medicine with laboratory animal medicine emphasis, a practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals, a member from a nonscientific background, a member not affiliated with UGA, as representative of the general community's interests, and a Chair. One senior committee member will be chosen to serve as the IACUC Chair. In addition, when possible, a committee member will be chosen as IACUC Vice-Chair, to assist the Chair and act as Chair when the Chair is not available. The committee shall be scheduled to meet once monthly but will meet no less than 10 times annually. These meetings shall be led by the IACUC Chair, Vice-Chair, or another IACUC member designated by the Chair or Vice-Chair, and the minutes of these meetings shall be made available by the IACUC Coordinator.

VI. Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

IACUC members and alternates must recuse themselves from review and approval of items for which they have a conflict of interest. Also, IACUC members and alternates must not disclose, or use for personal benefit, any confidential information obtained while performing IACUC activities.

VII. Accreditation and Assurance

To affirm that the Animal Care and Use Program is in compliance with applicable federal regulations and state laws, UGA will maintain an Animal Welfare Assurance, in compliance with Public Health Service policy, through the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, and Registration with the USDA APHIS Animal Care, in compliance with the USDA Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, 9 CFR. In addition, UGA will maintain voluntary accreditation of its biomedical ACUP through AAALAC, International.