



## Concerns Involving Animal Care and Use

### Overview/Purpose

The Ohio State University encourages all faculty, staff, students, and volunteers, acting in good faith, to report suspected or actual wrongful conduct associated with the use and care of animals. The IACUC is required by regulatory agencies to review, and if warranted, investigate reports of concern involving animal care and use.

### Definitions

**Noncompliance:** Failure (intentional or unintentional) to comply with applicable federal regulations, state or local law, requirements or determinations of the IACUC, or University policy regarding research or teaching involving animals.

**Allegation of noncompliance:** An unconfirmed report of noncompliance.

### Requirements

Concerns about animal's health and safety or noncompliance with IACUC-approved protocols, procedures, or policies may be made to the IACUC Chair, the Institutional Attending Veterinarian (AV), or the Office of Responsible Research Practices (ORRP). Contact information is posted in the core animal facilities and on the IACUC website. Allegations of animal concerns/non-compliance are investigated by the IACUC in accordance with standard procedures and will remain confidential to the extent permitted by Ohio law. Anonymous hotline concerns involving animals are forwarded to the IACUC via the Office of Responsible Research Practices.

Allegations of noncompliance will remain confidential to the extent permitted by Ohio law, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation. The University will take reasonable steps to protect persons who file reports in good faith from retaliatory actions based on such filing, in accordance with the [OSU Whistleblower Policy 1.40](#). The person named in the allegation and the Principal Investigator of the study, if applicable, will be notified if an investigation is warranted, and provided the IACUC SOP "[Procedure for Investigating Concerns Involving Animal Care and Use](#)".

The IACUC Chair or Vice-Chair, AV, or Institutional Official (IO) may temporarily stop any activity involving the use of animals and impose sanctions on an investigator's research and/or secure critical documents at any time if necessary to assure animal health and safety. Suspension or termination of a protocol may only be approved by the IACUC at a convened meeting.

Noncompliance determined to be serious and/or continuing or any suspension or termination of IACUC approval must be reported to OLAW, USDA, AAALAC, funding agencies and others (e.g., Sponsored Programs) as necessary, in accordance with The Ohio State University's OLAW Assurance and Federal Regulations.

## Applicable Regulations

1. Animal Welfare Act (AWA, Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.)
2. Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR, 9 CFR 2.31, 9CFR 2.31 (d) (3) 16, 9CFR 2.31 (c) (4))
3. Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals IV B 4
4. National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011

## Additional Information/Guidance

1. OSU Whistleblower Policy 1.40 (03/01/06)
2. IACUC SOP "Procedure for Investigating Concerns Involving Animal Care and Use"

## History of Revisions

**017-00** - new policy approved 10/2002

**017-01** - Added information about the University whistleblower policy, 01/19/2007

**017-02** - Expanded to provide more information on the procedures to be followed by the IACUC and to provide information about the ability of investigators to appeal the decision, 07/23/2010.

**017-03** - Reformatted and moved details describing IACUC process to IACUC SOP 05/16/2014

**017-04** – Minor revisions to wording, 03/17/2017