
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Guidelines for the Veterinary Care of Animals

The Animal Welfare Act, Section 2.33 (b) states that “each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

- The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;
- Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; provided that daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and provided further that a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian;
- Guidance is provided to principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia; and
- Adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care is in accordance with current established veterinary medical and nursing procedures.”

Investigators are required to observe animals as described in their approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol. Unanticipated post-procedural complications may require more frequent observations and subsequent modifications to the IACUC protocol. Any variances from expected outcomes should be immediately reported to the Attending Veterinarian.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee established the following policy pertaining to animals that may be in distress due to an illness or injury, which will be effective seven days a week:

1. The Veterinary Services (VS) Staff, principal investigators (PIs) and research staff are required to contact the Attending Veterinarian or Backup Veterinarian if any animal is found to be showing signs of pain, distress or appears to be sick or injured.
 - a. A Health Monitoring Form should be completed and submitted by either a member of the VS Staff, PI or research staff.
 - b. Completed forms are submitted to the Veterinary Services Administrative Office located on the fifth floor of the Numa P. G. Adams building, room 5505.
 - c. Copies of the Health Monitoring Forms are kept on line (NEED WEBSITE) or outside of the VS office. In addition, forms will be made available for all PIs using animals in either their laboratories or housing animals in satellite facilities.
 - d. Investigators located in the Biology building may submit the Health Monitoring Forms to VS by email or fax.
2. The Attending Veterinarian will make every effort to contact the PI, or his/her designee, to discuss treatment options, which may include euthanasia. If the PI

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authorizes the VS Staff to perform therapy, the PI will be provided with treatment records at the completion of the therapy, upon request.

3. Treatment including euthanasia will not be withheld if the PI or his/her designee does not respond to e-mail or phone mail messages, in a time frame determined by the Attending Veterinarian to assure the well-being of the animal. The Attending Veterinarian will initiate supportive care or euthanasia, according to his/her professional judgment and will notify the Chair of the IACUC or his/her designee. The PI will be provided with treatment or euthanasia records at the completion of therapy, upon request.
4. If the PI or designee fails to euthanize an animal at a previously agreed time point, the VS will take action to initiate treatment or conduct euthanasia consistent with their responsibility to assure the well-being of animals.
5. It is the responsibility of the PI to provide current office and home telephone numbers or pagers for all study personnel to be contacted in case of an emergency.
6. The VS Staff will document all attempts to contact the PI, or his/her designee, to discuss animals in distress and to record the outcomes of successful communications.
7. The office telephone and cell numbers for contacting the VS Staff during regular, facility hours (non-holidays and weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) are listed below. For after hours (before 7:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. or weekends and holidays), please use cellular numbers listed below.

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