

## **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements for reuse of vertebrate research animals. While it is a fundamental principle of animal research to refine, replace and reduce animal usage, animal welfare must be considered when applying these principles. Animals which have already been used on a study, especially when the well-being of the animal(s) has been compromised, should not be reused. This policy has been developed to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy, and to ensure humane care and use of vertebrate animals.

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

1. If you anticipate using experimentally naïve<sup>1</sup> animals from other protocols in your research or teaching, your protocol must state under Section 6 (Source of Animals) of the Protocol Document that animals from other protocols may be used.
2. The following types of transfers between protocols require the notification of the Office of Research Integrity and approval from the Attending Veterinarian (or designee), but do not need a protocol amendment:
  - a. Healthy experimentally naïve<sup>1</sup> animals
  - b. Rodents previously used only for breeding with no invasive procedures performed
  - c. Animals transferred from one approved protocol to another approved protocol for the purpose of immediate euthanasia, by an approved method stated in the protocol.
  - d. Animals that have been used for simple experimental procedures (e.g., single blood draw, single injection of a vehicle or saline).
3. A protocol amendment, naming the protocol number the animals are coming from, must be submitted to the IACUC for the transfer from one protocol to another if the animal has been used for experimental procedures.
4. In no case may the Attending Veterinarian or the IACUC independently approve a transfer that would involve an animal having multiple major survival surgeries across protocols (i.e., one surgery in one protocol, and the second in a different protocol). Such transfers require USDA approval for covered species following a request from the IACUC.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of naïve animals include: excess from shipments, or animals housed but not included in research manipulation, or unused offspring from breeding colonies.

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For USDA covered species (such as rabbits, wild caught animals, hamsters, etc.) a written record of the transfer will be kept. The animal's clinical record should also contain the following:

- date
- original protocol number
- receiving protocol number

## **REFERENCES**

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (2011)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-Care-and-Use-of-Laboratory-Animals.pdf>

USDA [US Department of Agriculture]. 1985. 9 CFR 1A. (Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A): Animal Welfare. Available at [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title09/9cfrv1\\_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title09/9cfrv1_02.tpl) ; accessed September 23, 2013.

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