

Colorado State University

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy on the Use of Live Vertebrate Animals

Purpose

It is the responsibility of the Colorado State University (CSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its research, testing and teaching programs that is consistent with federal requirements¹ and CSU's institutional policies.

Policy

The use of live, vertebrate animals in any research, teaching, or testing conducted by or at the request of CSU personnel (faculty, staff, or students) requires IACUC review and/or approval prior to initiation of the animal use as well as implementation of changes to previously approved animal use activities. "Use of live, vertebrate animals" includes direct research, teaching, or testing by CSU personnel as well as the manipulation of live, vertebrate animals done by a vendor or collaborator at the request of a CSU person prior to receipt of animals or primary animal tissues/specimens.

The following are examples of situations where CSU IACUC review and/or approval is required:

- The use of live, vertebrate animals owned or controlled by CSU for biomedical, agricultural, or other research/testing purposes.
- The rearing of livestock or other farm animals owned by CSU for the sole purpose of producing food and/or fiber.
- The use of privately-owned or non-CSU owned animals (*e.g.*, client-owned, shelter-owned, faculty/staff/student-owned) in research, teaching, or testing conducted by or under the direction of CSU personnel. See *Additional Considerations* below.
- The manipulation of wildlife or their environment for research, teaching, or testing conducted by, or at the direction of, CSU personnel. See *Policy on Wildlife Management and Nuisance or Invasive Species* for additional information related to IACUC oversight of activities involving wild animals. See *Additional Considerations* below.
- The manipulation of live, vertebrate animals for teaching, regardless of source or ownership. Teaching includes all activities designed to enhance student learning (*e.g.*, formal courses, wetlabs, and informal student club activities).

Additional Considerations: At their discretion, CSU IACUC may also review projects using privately-owned animals in veterinary clinical studies, or projects involving wildlife via IACUC Waiver Review.

In some situations, CSU IACUC may accept the oversight of another institution's IACUC as sufficient proof that animal welfare is being protected. Please contact IACUC staff for guidance on submitting an Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) Form for the following scenarios:

¹ [Public Health Service \(PHS\) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), [USDA Animal Welfare Regulations §2.31](#)

- In cases where CSU personnel collaborate with another institution on research, testing, or teaching at locations other than CSU.
- In cases where CSU personnel order custom animal products derived from live animals (*e.g.*, custom antibodies, special order specimens, surgically altered, or new transgenic cell lines):
 - *Note: federal regulations require project-specific approval for the use of such products (see [OLAW FAQ #A2](#))*
- When Animal work is funded by CSU monies or via a Sponsored Projects sub-award, with oversight provided by a collaborating institution's IACUC.

Use of Client-, Faculty-, Staff-, and Student-Owned Animals

In the cases of veterinary clinical trials, additional review and approval by the relevant Clinical Review Board (CRB) is required. The owners of these animals provide informed consent for such use, and that no client-, faculty, staff, or students are unduly coerced into allowing the use of their animal for such purposes.

Use of Shelter-Derived Animals

The acquisition of live animals from shelters for use in research, testing, or teaching is prohibited², including acquisition directly from the shelter, or indirectly from a licensed dealer.

In some instances, with IACUC review and/or approval, shelter animals may be enrolled in research involving a veterinary clinical trial. The project must have an established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)³ and the shelter must provide consent. The animals either remain at the shelter or are returned to it at the conclusion of the activities.

CSU may accept carcasses of animals for educational and research use from shelters if the animals have been euthanized in the course of that organization's normal operations, policies and practices.

Activities not involving the use of live vertebrate animals for research, testing, or teaching that DO NOT require IACUC approval:

- The use of off-the-shelf products (*e.g.*, antibodies, blood products, cell lines, and specimens).
 - Please note—Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) review and approval may still be required to use these products. Please contact IBC staff for information.
- The use of deceased animals and animals euthanized for unrelated reasons (*e.g.*, tissues from slaughter at USDA-inspected facilities) for research, teaching, or testing.
 - Investigators must follow all pertinent biosafety precautions and any applicable IBC policies in using tissues of unknown provenance or tissues potentially containing infectious agents.
- The use of non-CSU owned animals for exhibition events (*e.g.*, rodeos, exhibitions).
 - While not overseen by CSU IACUC, appropriate safeguards to ensure the welfare of the animals used should be in place for such events.

² [Fort Collins Municipal Code and Charter Sec. 4-141](#). Adoption or disposal of unclaimed animals. "In disposing of unclaimed animals, it shall be unlawful for the City or Humane Society to surrender live animals to any hospital or institution of learning for use in research."

³ [American Veterinary Medical Association VCPR: The Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship](#)

Institutional Endorsement

As the Institutional Official for Colorado State University, I recognize and endorse the authority and enforcement of the *"Policy on the Use of Live Vertebrate Animals"* by the IACUC.



01/14/2026

Cassandra Moseley, Ph.D.

Date

Vice President for Research, Institutional Official

Professor, Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship