

**Colorado State University  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
(IACUC)**

***Principal Investigator Policy***

**Principal Investigator (PI) Definition**

Conducting research, teaching, and testing with animals is a privilege and carries with it ethical and legal responsibilities. By Colorado State University (CSU) policy and federal regulation<sup>1</sup>, the Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual responsible for writing an accurate IACUC Protocol/Waiver to utilize animal subjects, and for designing practices and implementing the approved use(s) of those subjects. Ultimately, the PI assumes the responsibility for the ethical conduct of the project and for the welfare of the animal subjects. The PI should understand and abide by all relevant federal regulations, as well as all [institutional policies and guidelines](#).

**CSU PI Eligibility**

CSU employees who are employed as academic faculty, qualified administrative professionals (e.g., Research Associates and Research Scientists), CSU state employees, or CSU affiliates/associates may serve as PI.

The following personnel may submit an IACUC protocol as a Co-PI but must have someone who is eligible to serve as PI (see above) on the protocol, who will then perform all PI duties associated with project activity.

- Temporary Visiting Faculty
- Post-doctoral Fellows and Students

**Institutional Endorsement**

The “Principal Investigator Policy” is approved by the IACUC on November 21, 2024 for recommendation to the Institutional Official supports the research, teaching and service mission of Colorado State University, and ensures that the welfare of animal subjects used therein will be protected. Therefore, as the Institutional Official, I declare the IACUC-recommended policy to be the institutional policy of the Colorado State University Animal Care and Use Program.

  
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Institutional Official

12/23/2024  
Date

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<sup>1</sup> [USDA Animal Welfare Regulations Subchapter A, Part 1, §1.1, Definitions](#)