

Colorado State University  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
*Policy on Use of Expired Materials and Expiration Date Labeling in  
Research/Testing/Teaching Animals*

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## Purpose

CSU strives to maintain an animal care program that conforms to our institutional ethics as well as applicable federal regulations. The use of expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies on animal subjects is not an acceptable veterinary care practice, as summarized in Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) guidelines<sup>1</sup>:

*The use of expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies is not consistent with acceptable veterinary practice or adequate veterinary care. Euthanasia, anesthesia and analgesia agents should not be used beyond their expiration date, even if a procedure is terminal. Other expired materials should not be used unless the manufacturer verifies efficacy beyond the expiration date, or the investigator is able to document to the satisfaction of the IACUC that such use would not negatively impact animal welfare or compromise the validity of the study. The veterinarian and IACUC must maintain control over the use of expired medical materials in order to meet their responsibilities to avoid or minimize discomfort, pain or distress to animals.*

## Policy

### Use of Expired Materials

Investigators must store and use pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies according to the manufacturers' instructions. All compounds, drugs, supplies, and materials (e.g., sutures, gauze, surgical gloves, and needles) intended for implantation or direct contact with animals must be within their expiration dates when used in survival studies.

The use of expired items, excluding drugs (i.e. euthanasia, anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics, etc.), may be used in terminal procedures only if their use does not negatively impact animal welfare or compromise the validity of the study. Expired items must be clearly labeled "For Terminal Use Only," and physically separated from unexpired supplies.

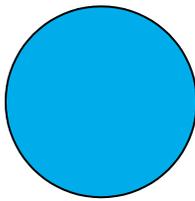
### Expiration Date Labeling

All pharmaceuticals used for research animals must be clearly labeled with the expiration date as outlined below to easily identify the expiration dates.

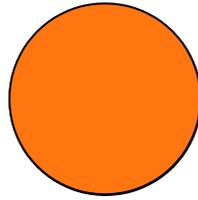
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<sup>1</sup> [OLAW FAQs, Section F: Animal Use and Management, #5](#)

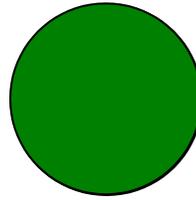
- Upon receipt the containers are labeled with a color-coded sticker to indicate the year the agent expires.<sup>2</sup>



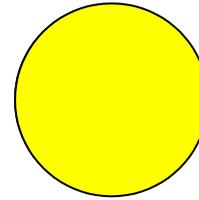
2024/2029



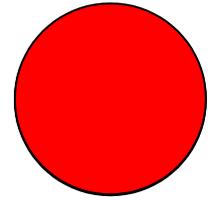
2025/2030



2026/2031

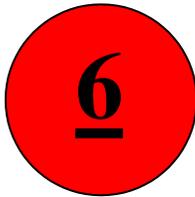


2027/2032



2028/2033

- The numerical designation of the month of expiration is written on the sticker. For example, 1 is used to denote January, 2- February, 3- March, etc.
- Place the sticker in a clearly visible location on the container. In this example, the compound expires June 2028.



### **Institutional Endorsement**

The *Policy on Use of Expired Materials and Expiration Date Labeling in Research/Testing/Teaching Animals* approved by the IACUC on May 27, 2025 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.

Cassandra Moseley  
Institutional Official

06/16/2025  
Date

<sup>2</sup> See Attachment: Sticker Colors and Years.