

# Colorado State University

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

### *Policy on Reporting and Evaluation of Animal Welfare Concerns*

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#### Purpose

To ensure that animals used in research, teaching, and testing activities receive humane care, use and treatment in accordance with applicable federal regulations and institutional policies, Colorado State University (CSU) IACUC must review and, if warranted, address any animal-related concerns raised by its personnel or the public. This policy outlines the established procedures for reporting and review of concerns regarding the care and use of animals at CSU. The IACUC will review each concern in a timely manner and, when necessary, take appropriate corrective and preventative action.

#### Policy

##### **Imperative for Reporting Concerns**

It is imperative that any CSU employee or member of the public with concerns regarding the welfare of animals used in CSU's research, teaching, or testing report those concerns to the appropriate institutional representatives. The IACUC is ethically bound to investigate all reports.

##### **Methods for Reporting**

CSU provides multiple methods of reporting concerns related to animal care and use, or instances of suspected noncompliance with applicable regulations and policies. The names and phone numbers of individuals to whom concerns can be reported are posted in all animal housing and use facilities and are listed on the *IACUC Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns* webpage. The individuals who also can be contacted include the IACUC Chair<sup>1</sup>, Attending Veterinarian<sup>2</sup> (AV), IACUC staff, and the Vice President for Research (who serves as CSU's Institutional Official (IO)). In addition, anyone may use Colorado State University System's [Compliance Reporting Hotline](#) to report concerns.

##### **Confidentiality and Prohibition against Retaliation**

The confidentiality of individuals reporting concerns will be honored to the extent possible. Additionally, the identity of anyone against whom allegations are directed will be protected to the extent possible while the matter is under investigation. University Policy, [Retaliation and Whistleblower Protection](#) prohibits retaliation against employees who in good faith report and/or participate in an investigation pertaining to concerns of animal welfare.

##### **Investigation of Reports**

When an animal welfare concern is reported, the party receiving the report will immediately inform the IACUC Chair, AV, and IACUC staff. The IACUC Chair, AV, and IACUC staff will promptly begin an investigation, gathering information to determine the nature and extent of the animal

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<sup>1</sup> IACUC Chair = includes the Chair or their delegate, including but not limited to the IACUC Associate Chair, Attending Veterinarian (AV), or Associate Attending Veterinarians, depending on availability.

<sup>2</sup> Attending Veterinarian (AV) = includes their delegates, Associate Attending Veterinarians.

