

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

***Policy on the Use of Live Vertebrate Animals***

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 and teaching programs that is consistent with federal requirements<sup>1</sup> and CSU's institutional policies.

The use of live, vertebrate animals in any research, teaching, or testing conducted by or at the request of any CSU person (faculty, staff, or students) requires IACUC review and/or approval prior to initiation of the animal use and 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 the animals or resulting tissues/specimens by CSU.

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

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

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

In some situations, CSU IACUC may accept the oversight of another IACUC as sufficient proof that animal welfare is being protected:

- In cases where CSU persons are collaborating with other institutions on research, testing, or teaching at locations other than CSU:
  - CSU IACUC may defer approval and oversight authority to another IACUC.
  - Contact IACUC Staff for information about submitting an Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) Form.
- In cases where CSU persons are ordering custom animal products derived from live animals (e.g. custom antibodies, special order specimens, surgically altered, or new transgenic lines):
  - CSU IACUC may defer approval and oversight authority to another IACUC.
  - Contact IACUC Staff for information on documenting such approval. However, it is important to note that federal regulations require project-specific approval for the use of such products (see [OLAW FAQ #A2](#))
- Animal work funded by CSU monies or via a Sponsored Projects sub-award must document IACUC approval from the collaborating institution.
  - Contact IACUC Staff for information about submitting an Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) Form.

Activities not involving the use of live vertebrate animals for research, testing, or teaching 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 slaughtered at USDA-inspected facilities) for research, teaching, or testing.
  - Investigators should 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.

## **Institutional Endorsement**

Original and Revisions: 4/18/06, 11/23/10, 10/25/11, 5/26/15, 5/25/21, 11/15/22

The "Policy on the Use of Live Vertebrate Animals" approved by the IACUC on November 15, 2022 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 policy of the Colorado State University Animal Care and Use Program.



11/15/2022

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Institutional Official

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Date