

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

IACUC Composition and Responsibilities Policy

I. Purpose

Colorado State University is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and teaching programs on campus and by campus affiliated researchers. Federal agencies require that universities implement specific protections for animals used in research, oversight for which was charged to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the university, the President of Colorado State University. The CEO has delegated this authority to the Vice President for Research, who serves as the “Institutional Official” (IO), with the ultimate responsibility for the Animal Care Program at CSU. The IO has further delegated joint responsibility for aspects of animal welfare to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR), and the Research Integrity & Compliance Review Office (RICRO). Animal husbandry and veterinary medical care is provided by LAR. The Attending Veterinarian (AV) ensures that adequate veterinary care is provided to all animals in the program. RICRO supports the functions of the IACUC. The purpose of this policy is to describe the composition of the IACUC and outline its primary responsibilities.

The university community depends on the IACUC to oversee CSU’s animal welfare program and the animal facilities, including satellite campuses. The IACUC reviews research and teaching protocols, and regulates the use of animals for research, teaching and testing. Twice a year, the IACUC inspects and reviews CSU’s facilities and animal care program. Further, the IACUC serves as an educational and informational resource for the campus research community in all aspects of animal welfare. The committee relies on current and relevant law, regulation, and policy, as well as the demands of rational moral concern, when making policy decisions.

II. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Membership

The IACUC shall consist of at least five members, which shall include:

- The Attending Veterinarian (AV), with overall program authority;
- At least one scientist involved with animal research. Additional scientists will be appointed to include representation from the colleges in which animals are used for research and/or teaching, and specific expertise in typical research proposals;
- At least one member whose is a nonscientist¹
- At least one member who is nonaffiliated² with CSU except as a member of the IACUC (e.g. “community” member)

¹ [OLAW definition of a nonscientist member](#)

² [OLAW definition of nonaffiliated member](#)

Original and Revisions: 7/19/05, 7/2/14, 5/25/21

The Biosafety Officer (BSO) shall be a permanent non-voting member. IACUC member appointments shall be made in writing by the IO. Term of service is typically three years. The preferred practice will be to limit service to two consecutive terms, where feasible. The committee may invite ad hoc consultants who are subject matter experts in areas relevant to complex issues requiring expertise beyond that represented on the committee. These consultants may not vote.

III. Responsibilities of the IACUC

- A. The committee shall be aware of the location and nature of all activities involving the use of live, vertebrate animals at the university, for the purposes of research, teaching, and/or testing.
- B. Before initiation of any research, teaching, and/or testing activities involving live, vertebrate animals, the committee shall review and approve a protocol describing such use, or require modification to a protocol (e.g. amendment request).
- C. The committee may disapprove and/or suspend activity on previously approved projects if the protocol is not in compliance with Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, USDA regulations or CSU IACUC policies and guidelines.
- D. The committee shall provide information to the CSU Division of University Communications or other institutional representatives regarding matters involving animal research and welfare at CSU, for dissemination to the CSU animal research community and the public.
- E. The committee shall meet at least semi-annually to inspect animal facilities and review the animal care program to ensure compliance with the PHS Policy, *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and applicable USDA regulations.

IV. Enforcement of Principles

- A. The IACUC may take appropriate actions to ensure compliance with its determinations, as outlined in [Policy on Reporting and Evaluation of Concerns Regarding Animal Care and Use](#) and [Policy on Instances of Noncompliance](#). In general, these may include corrective actions or suspension of a protocol. Please reference these policies for more information
- B. The AV, their delegates³, and all clinical veterinarians have the authority to suspend an animal activity if they deem there is an immediate threat to the animal's wellbeing.
- C. CSU takes seriously concerns regarding the care and use of animals at the institution that are raised by faculty, staff, students, CSU employees, committee members, or individuals in the community. CSU respects the rights of whistleblowers under the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs) and other federal regulations, which prohibits discrimination against or reprisal for reporting violations of the AWRs. Animal welfare concerns may be directed to the IACUC Chair or any member of the IACUC, the AV, the clinical veterinarians, RICRO staff, or to the IO. Individuals reporting concerns will be protected from retaliation.

³ AV delegates include Associate AV and Associate Director, LAR.
Original and Revisions: 7/19/05, 7/2/14, 5/25/21

Institutional Endorsement

The "IACUC Composition and Responsibilities Policy" approved by the IACUC on May 25, 2021 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.



July 12, 2021

Institutional Official

Date