

Statement on Animal Research

Colorado State University has a long history of outstanding animal research and is committed to maintaining the highest standards of animal use and care. Federal agencies require that universities such as Colorado State University implement specific protections for animals used in research, oversight for which rests with the President of Colorado State University. The President of Colorado State University has delegated certain authority to the Vice President for Research, who serves as the “Institutional Official” (IO). The IO has the ultimate responsibility for implementation of the Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) at Colorado State University. The IO also has the responsibility to ensure that the ACUP aligns with the best interests of the University and its practitioners of animal research at CSU.

It is the responsibility of the IO to appoint an Attending Veterinarian (AV) to provide adequate veterinary care to its animals, and to appoint an IACUC, qualified through the experience and expertise of its members, to assess Colorado State University’s animal program, facilities and procedures. The composition of the IACUC will be determined by the IO, in accordance with regulatory requirements and CSU’s value of shared governance between faculty and the administration. Administrative support for the IACUC will come through the Office of Research Collaboration & Compliance (ORCC), which also reports to the IO. The IO, in consultation with the AV and the IACUC, shall establish policies and procedures to manage the ACUP at Colorado State University.

Colorado State University embraces intellectual freedoms of research and strives to nurture an atmosphere conducive to research and the protection and promotion of academic freedom. In accordance with these goals, Colorado State University is committed to the appropriate care, use and humane treatment of animals used for teaching and research. We expect that each faculty member, staff member, or student involved in the use of animals will uphold principles and practices that will promote and protect animal welfare within the instructional, extension, and research programs of the University. The principle role of the IACUC is to oversee the evaluation of protocols for animal research for compliance with regulatory guidelines, best practices, and

sound design, and to advise the IO on protocols to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are practiced.

In some cases, (and historically this has been a very few), the IACUC may encounter proposals that present questions regarding University policy or comfort with the type of research proposed. To increase transparency regarding the evaluation of these specific cases, The IO has established an institutional bioethics advisory committee to advise the IO. Examples of protocols that may warrant further review include the use of non-human primates, dual use research of concern in military application for offensive weapon development, or the use of animal models that induce unalleviated pain or distress. The IACUC chair shall refer protocols that merit deeper discussion to the bioethics committee for their evaluation and recommendation to the IO. The IO in consultation with the Provost and President will adjudicate referred proposals evaluated by the bioethics committee. Membership of the Bioethics Advisory Committee will be determined by the IO and should include membership from the University bioethics community, University Distinguished Professors and University Distinguished Teaching Scholars.