

Policy for Veterinary Care for the  
System-wide University of Hawaii Animal Care and Use Program  
First Issues: April 9, 2007 (Revised: 6/4/08, 11/7/13, 6/8/15 MW, 12/6/18 MW IACUC approved)

Background

The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Animals and the US Government Principles requires institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals conducted or supported by the PHS. To be eligible for grants from the PHS for research and training projects using vertebrate animals, the University of Hawaii (UH) must file a written Animal Welfare Assurance acceptable to the PHS every 5 years, setting forth compliance with the PHS Policy. The Assurance is reviewed, approved, and kept on file by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) to ensure the adequacy of the University of Hawaii's (UH) animal care and use program. The UH has filed its Animal Welfare Assurance statement indicating that the total animal care program of the institution will be conducted in accordance with PHS policy and guidelines put forth in the Guide. Therefore, in principle, all animal facilities/sites (facilities) associated with the program should be operated in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of the Guide, and applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies as appropriate. Depending on the nature of the research or teaching objective, a blending of guidelines may be necessary, and professional judgment exercised.

Authority

Federal Law creates a statutory basis for the University Veterinarian/Attending Veterinarian (UV), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and the Institutional Official (IO), who are charged with the primary oversight responsibilities for the Animal Care and Use Program (Program). At the UH, the office of the UV is organized within the Animal & Veterinary Services Program (AVS), and reports to the IO. The UH Animal Welfare Assurance on file with OLAW assures that the UV has direct University System-wide program authority and responsibility for the institution's Program, in particular, the veterinary care program is the responsibility of the UV. The UV has delegated authority to the Staff Veterinarian to assist with oversight of the Program. As such the UV will observe System-wide animal facilities on at least a semi-annual schedule. The institution must provide the UV with sufficient authority, including access to all animals and resources to manage the program of veterinary care, including overseeing other aspects of animal care and use (e.g. husbandry and housing) to ensure that the Program complies with the Guide (p. 14).

Requirements when University Veterinarians are listed on IACUC protocols

All facilities utilizing the UV or designee as veterinarian must notify the UV or designee with **12 hours** of any health related emergencies of the animal subjects covered by the protocol, any significant changes within the environment, disease-status or physiological state of the animals that impact the health and welfare at facilities under the UV's care, so a treatment plan and/or collection of diagnostic samples can occur in a timely manner. A report should be submitted within 12 hours of the event to the UV, by contacting Animal & Veterinary Services at (808) 956-4444 or email [sylviak@hawaii.edu](mailto:sylviak@hawaii.edu) or [wongmich@hawaii.edu](mailto:wongmich@hawaii.edu) .

Requirements when Consultant Veterinarians are listed on IACUC protocols

Due to the remote location of some facilities within or outside of the State, and the diverse nature of the animal activities, non-AVS or non-UH veterinarians (consultant veterinarians) may be retained through contract or agreement to provide primary and/or specialized veterinary care, consultation, and emergency care as needed. In such cases, visits to facilities by the UV will be on a semi-annual basis.

When consultant veterinarians are utilized to observe the health of animals, a mechanism for direct and frequent communication shall be established to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the UV on significant problems associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being. The UV is the point of contact for reporting of any changes in environmental conditions, disease or physiological changes that impacts animal health and welfare. A report should be submitted within 48 hours of the event to the UV, by contacting Animal & Veterinary Services at (808) 956-4444 or email [sylviak@hawaii.edu](mailto:sylviak@hawaii.edu) or [wongmich@hawaii.edu](mailto:wongmich@hawaii.edu) .

Investigators utilizing consultant veterinarians are required to have a written IACUC-approved relationship, and be on file with the UV. Consultant veterinarians will receive letters from the UV explaining the consultant veterinarian's roles and responsibilities, described in the Guide, as veterinarians on protocol.

#### Responsibilities of the University Veterinarian

- The UV will assess animal well-being and effective management of the following: animal procurement and transportation; preventive medicine; clinical disease, disability, or related health issues; protocol-associated disease, disability, or other sequelae; surgery and perioperative care; pain and distress; anesthesia and analgesia; and euthanasia. These will be assessed during consultation with Principal Investigators during protocol development (see UH IACUC Policy 15), review of IACUC protocols, training and demonstration of proficiency, and reviews of facilities/sites/programs of veterinary care.

At least semi-annual reviews of facilities by the UV will be made of facilities that are associated with the UH Animal Care and Use Program and hold animals for more than 12 hours.

- Facilities where animal procedures are conducted, but that do not hold animals for more than 12 hours, will be reviewed semi-annually by the UV. The UV will pre-determine whether to visit while active animal manipulations are being conducted.
- Routine announced visits will be scheduled with the appropriate Facility Manager.
- Unannounced veterinary visits may be conducted at random, in particular for any facility with a history of noncompliance or nonconformity to animal health and welfare standards; or if of real or perceived reports of animal welfare concerns are received by the UV.
- A written report by the UV's office will be generated after each visit, and sent to the appropriate Facility Manager within a reasonable time frame following the visit. Final reports will be forwarded to the UH IACUC for their review.
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- Animal activities categorized as D or E may be monitored more frequently.
- Training or Demonstration of Proficiency as required by the Guide or the AWA is documented by the UV. Examples include practicing aseptic survival surgical techniques or humane methods of euthanasia

#### Responsibilities of Facilities Holding or Using Vertebrate Animals

- All facilities must provide a reasonable mechanism to enter the facility, especially if the UV or designee is listed, so that animal emergencies or concerns can be dealt with expeditiously.
- A written program of veterinary care (following the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) format) shall be on file with the UV, and shall be reviewed during the semi-annual veterinary facility reviews and updated as needed. Any changes must be made in consultation with the UV.