

**Purdue University
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

Title: *Provision of Veterinary Care by Veterinarians that are not part of our centralized support Veterinary Teams*

I. **Purpose:**

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) must ensure that adequate veterinary care is provided for research animals. The term “adequate veterinary care” is defined by the Federal USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the ILAR *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM). It is not limited to caring for sick animals, but includes programs of disease detection and surveillance, prevention, post-operative care, husbandry and a variety of other issues.

Regulatory agencies are concerned about potential conflicts of interest when a veterinarian researcher provides veterinary care to their own research animals or when veterinarians without specialized training in support of research and teaching animals are providing primary care.

II. **Policy:**

The Attending Veterinarian (AV), as the Veterinarian of Record for the campus under the AWA and Public Health Service (PHS) Assurance, has final responsibility to ensure that campus programs for veterinary care are adequate. Veterinary care is provided to animals at Purdue University used for teaching and research through the AV, and under the delegated authority of the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP). For horses and animals at ASREC Beef, Dairy, and Swine facilities, services by the PUVH are utilized.

A Principal Investigator (PI) wishing to either provide their own veterinary care or utilize a veterinarian outside of these delegated veterinary units is discouraged. To gain approval the PI must provide to the IACUC strong rationale based on scientific justification for requesting a deviation from one of the veterinary care providers listed in the first paragraph of this section.

III. Procedure:

1. In addition to providing written scientific justification, researchers must complete section 1.2 in the IACUC protocol form which includes information on provision of veterinary care both on weekdays and on weekends and holidays. They should meet with the AV and develop a written memorandum of understanding that addresses the following:
 - The other veterinarian must notify the AV or designee by phone or email within 24 hours any significant animal health concerns that are a direct result of an Animal Care and Use Protocol's procedures.
 - The AV or designee has the authority to immediately suspend an activity that causes significant animal welfare or health concerns. The AV or designee will immediately notify the IACUC of any such situation.

Failure to adhere to these policies will result in loss of the privilege of the other veterinarian to provide veterinary care to those research animals.

IV. Resources:

1. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>
2. ILAR, Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals <http://nap.edu/12910>
3. PHS Policy
<https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/phs-policy.htm>
4. American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine "Position Statement on Adequate Veterinary Care"
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5113890/>