PACUC Policy

Donation of Rodents for Feed

Purpose: To identify which animals are appropriate for donating to wildlife rehabilitation centers, zoos, etc., which centers are approved for donations, and how to donate to such entities.

Background: The Purdue University IACUC authorizes the donation of rodents as a food source according to the criteria described below. Non-profit organizations with the mission of rehabilitating and releasing injured and orphaned raptors back into the wild may wish to obtain mice and rats previously used for research and/or teaching purposes as a source of food for raptors and other species in its care.

Rodent Donations
In order for an investigator to donate mice or rats as feed, the “Other” box must be selected under the Carcass Disposition section (7.5) on the protocol, it must be specified where the animals are being donated to, and the protocol must be approved. The animals must meet the criteria below to be acceptable for donation. Donations must be delivered to animal facility managers, who will then place the carcasses in the appropriate container in the freezer located in AHF. Donations will be picked up by the accepting entity on a monthly basis, which will be coordinated with the Laboratory Animal Program.

Donation Criteria
- Only wild-type mice or rats may be donated (no transgenic, knockout, or other genetically modified strains)
- The animals must be on an approved IACUC protocol for use in research or teaching
- Have not experienced any manipulation that permanently altered their anatomical, physiological, metabolic, or locomotor function
  - Post-mortem examination in which the abdomen and/or thoracic cavity has been opened or in which reproductive organs have been removed post-mortem are acceptable for donation
- Have not received any type of device implantation
- Have not received any chemical or drug, including isoflurane anesthesia
- Appear free of any detectable infectious or physical abnormality that would threaten animal or public health
- Have been euthanized only through the use of CO2 or cervical dislocation alone
- Ear tags must be removed prior to donation

The accepting entity acknowledges and has accepted the following, signed by a waiver of release.
- That the animals have been a subject in research, teaching, or testing
- Any and all risks of accepting this animal into their premises
- That the animal carcasses are being donated as a food source for animals and that the carcasses will not be sold or given away or otherwise released from his/her care

Approved by PACUC 06/19/2019
• To be responsible for all transportation of rodents by coordinating pickup with the Purdue Laboratory Animal Program