

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH POLICIES MANUAL**

SECTION: Clemson University Sponsored Projects Management

SUBJECT: Policy for Delegation to Veterinarian Authority to Provide Adequate Veterinary Care including Decisions Regarding Euthanasia

Approved: October 29, 2007

Effective: November 1, 2007

Statement:

In order to successfully manage the activities involving animals used in biomedical and behavioral research, the institution conducting the activity must provide a written Assurance acceptable to the Public Health Service (PHS) setting forth the institution's compliance with the "Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals." Regardless of an investigator's research objectives or funding sources, institutions are expected to oversee all research animals and ensure that their pain and distress are minimized. (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) Position Statement)

Purpose:

This administrative policy delegates the responsibility and authority to develop, implement, and administer high quality university-wide animal health and veterinary care and use programs for all University owned animals (including health care for agricultural animals used in research and teaching) to the Clemson University University Veterinarian, or his/her designee.

Discussion:

Compliance with the relevant regulations identified below involving the adequate veterinary medical care of all animals used in teaching and research requires a clear understanding by all persons responsible for providing veterinary care of the regulations and the established processes and protocols.

1. Animal Welfare Regulations – CFR TITLE 9 – Animals and Animal Products, Chapter I. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Subchapter A, United States Department of Agriculture, Part 2, Regulations, Subpart C – Research Facilities, Sec. 2.33 – *Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.*
2. Health Research Extension Act of 1985, Public Law 99-158 – Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
3. Clemson University's Assurance of Compliance with Public Health Services Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

4. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Chapter 3, Veterinary Medical Care, commonly referred to as “The Guide”
5. *Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching*, Chapter 3, Agricultural Animal Health Care, commonly referred to as “The Ag-Guide”
6. Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International, Rules of Accreditation

Policy:

The University Veterinarian and the Associate University Veterinarians are legally mandated by the relevant regulatory authority listed above to ensure that adequate veterinary medical care is provided at all Clemson teaching and research farms and facilities. Animal Welfare Regulations, the Health Research Extension Act, the Clemson Assurance to OLAW, The Guide, the Agricultural Guide and Clemson University’s accrediting body all define the veterinary care to be provided and, along with the President of Clemson University, authorize the University Veterinarians to provide such adequate veterinary care. This includes the authority to make final decisions regarding euthanasia of teaching and research animals.

Procedures:

The criteria for euthanasia and the chain of command for such decisions must be explained clearly in all teaching and research protocols using animals. These criteria must be communicated to all personnel who will be working with the animals, including those individuals providing husbandry support. In situations where lines of communication are not clear, or when they break down for unforeseen reasons, the default guidance for animal care and research support staffs reverts to the University Veterinarians as stated in the policy above.

In situations where the welfare of an animal is at issue; the PI and/or Project Manager will be consulted concerning the euthanasia of any animal for humane reasons; except in an acute medical emergency in which case one of the University Veterinarians must always be summoned. In some cases, an animal may be assigned to more than one protocol. In this situation, all Project Managers must be consulted.

In situations where the PI or Project Manager is not available, or in the rare case where there is no clear agreement among the investigative staff and the veterinarian, the University Veterinarians have authority to treat and/or euthanize the animal. In such cases, the Veterinarian must notify the PI or Project Manager and accurately document the event and all corrective actions taken.

Situations that involve a significant lack of agreement between the veterinarian and the PI/Project Manager, or that feature a significant delay in notification to a University Veterinarian, must be reported to the IACUC and brought to the attention of the Institutional Official.