

## **Policy on Using Non-University of Kentucky (UK) Owned Animals and/or Privately-Owned Land in Animal Research Projects**

This document establishes the policy for IACUC oversight of animal research involving non-UK owned animals and/or privately-owned land.

### **The Use of UK Owned Animals on Privately Owned Property**

For situations where use of UK owned animals occurs on privately owned (or leased) property, all standard IACUC policies and procedures apply, as set forth elsewhere. Written confirmation that access to UK-owned animals will be unrestricted must be provided. Additional releases or documentation may also be required. PIs must contact the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC; [UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu](mailto:UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu) or (859) 257-2936) and request assistance from a research counsel to discuss the project prior to IACUC approval.

### **The Use of Non-UK Owned Animals on University Property**

For situations where the use of non-UK owned animals occurs on UK owned (or leased) property, all standard IACUC policies and procedures apply, as set forth elsewhere. In many instances, written consent of the animal owner/agent is required. Additional releases or documentation may also be required. PIs must contact the Office of Legal Counsel ([UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu](mailto:UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu) or (859) 257-2936) and request assistance from a research counsel to discuss the project prior to approval. With approval of Office of Legal Counsel, an agreement between the owner and UK can cover multiple protocols.

### **The Use of Non-UK Owned Animals on Privately Owned Property**

For situations where the use of non-UK owned animals occurs on privately owned (or leased) property, scenarios have been outlined according to level of UK personnel participation and procedure invasiveness. IACUC oversight will be restricted to those practices and procedures involving UK personnel. In all instances, documented consent of the animal owner/agent is required.

1. For projects in which animal use involves receipt of samples (blood, feces, nasal swabs, etc.) collected by employees of, or others associated with, the privately-owned facilities (non-UK personnel) for UK research efforts, the IACUC will defer oversight for the sample collection to the standard operating procedures and practices of the private location.
2. For projects that include animal use where the principal investigator (PI) or their laboratory personnel (UK personnel) are active participants in minor, non-invasive procedures or specimen collection, the IACUC will delegate much of the standard IACUC oversight practices and procedures to the PI.
3. For projects in which animal use involves more invasive procedures (such as surgery, tissue sample collection, rectal/uterine palpation, etc.), additional oversight by the IACUC is likely to be required. Oversight procedures needed in these situations will be determined by the IACUC in consideration of the specific circumstances. Additional releases or documentation may also be required. PIs must contact the Office of Legal Counsel ([UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu](mailto:UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu) or (859) 257-2936) and request assistance from a research counsel to discuss the project prior to IACUC approval.

### **Research Conducted on Privately Owned/Leased Land**

The PI must provide assurance to the IACUC initially upon submission of a new protocol application and on a triennial basis, that participating privately owned facilities meet or exceed contemporary performance standards (those typical of well-managed facilities in the area) of

animal care and husbandry. Assurance verification has been incorporated into the electronic protocol application.

In the event the PI becomes aware of, or has reason to suspect, the facility no longer meets or exceeds contemporary performance standards of animal care and husbandry, or animal abuse has, or may be occurring at the facility, the PI must immediately inform the OAV-IACUC office, cease all research activities and review the issues with the IACUC.

## Consent

Documented consent to participate in the research project by the animal owner/agent is required in all instances, unless exempted by the IACUC and/or at the recommendation of the Office of Legal Counsel. Written consent may be required to be signed by the animal and/or property owner (or delegate) or, at a minimum, written expectations for the project must be shared and discussed with the owner (or delegate) and documented by the PI. Minimum required information for consent is included in template documentation ([Consent Form](#)). PIs must comply with any additional requirements for consent or further documentation, as set forth by the Office of Legal Counsel. Documentation of provided consent must be made available to the IACUC and OLC upon request. Consent documentation to be used in the project must be included in the IACUC protocol and provided for review prior to protocol approval. Elements in the consent will typically outline:

- Responsible parties for non-research related health issues such as vaccination, deworming, injuries, infections, medications, and other medically related issues;
- Disposition of the animal(s) at the conclusion of the project;
- Details regarding project termination and by whom.
- **For UK owned animals:** Unrestricted access to UK animals.

Should changes to a previously approved project consent document or other form be necessary, the PI must inform the IACUC at once.

**For all described activities: PIs are encouraged to contact the Office of Legal Counsel and request the assistance of a research counsel to discuss an appropriate use agreement or consent, which might involve a release of liability and/or other requirements.**

301 Main Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0032  
P:(859) 257-2936; F:(859) 323-1062  
E: UKOfficeofLegalCounsel@uky.edu

## Exemptions:

Under certain situations (e.g., activities that are considered to cause no or minimal potential pain/distress, are conducted in appropriate facilities, are conducted by experts in the field, or as recommended by the Office of Legal Counsel, etc.) the IACUC reserves the right to make exemptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis and approve proposed activities.

Approved and Adopted by the IACUC  
December 15, 2010

Last Revised:  
August 21, 2024