

SECTION 9: IACUC: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE & USE COMMITTEE

9.1 INTRODUCTION

John Carroll University established an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in 1998 to oversee JCU's animal program, facilities, and procedures. The present policy and forms were approved for use in 1999.

The Grants Administration website has devoted a section to IACUC concerns at www.jcu.edu/research/iacuc. The Animal Welfare Act can also be accessed from here. The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* are available both in paper copy in the Grants Reference Collection and online at the JCU IACUC web page. Guidelines and forms are also available at the website and at the end of this section.

9.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Animal Welfare Act was signed into law in 1966 and governs the care and use of animals in research, exhibition, transport, and by dealers. Codified as 9 CFR 1, the Act currently excludes rats, mice, and birds bred for research purposes under the definition of animals; however, these animals are covered under the Public Health Service regulations (PHS Health Research Extension Act of 1985). Consequently, the JCU IACUC does oversee the use of rats, mice, birds and all other vertebrates in research and teaching.

The PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals was developed in 1986 to establish and maintain measures for the treatment of animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing. John Carroll University complies with this policy and the Animal Welfare Act.

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* developed by the Public Health Service is the basis for the development and implementation of animal care and use committees.

Reporting to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is the federal agency responsible for animal related functions of the DHHS including implementing and interpreting the PHS Policy on animal care, providing educational programs, negotiating assurances, and evaluating compliance with the Policy. Prior to March 2000, the agency was known as the Division of Animal Welfare (DAW).

9.3 COMPOSITION OF THE IACUC

In accordance with federal regulations, the JCU IACUC is composed of a variety of members from inside and outside the University. The committee includes a minimum of one veterinarian with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine; one practicing scientist experienced in research with animals; one member whose primary concerns are in a non-scientific area; and one member who is not affiliated with the institution other than as a member of the IACUC. The Associate Academic Vice President serves ex officio as the IACUC Co-chair and the Research Compliance Administrator as the IACUC Administrator.

9.4 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All university employees and students are responsible for adhering to the IACUC policy guidelines. All animals owned and cared for by the University and any animals used in research are subject to this policy. Classroom use of animals in teaching, and student and faculty research projects should be filed with the IACUC using the "Protocol Review Form for Animal Care and Use" found at the end of this section. The form is also available online at www.jcu.edu/research/iacuc.

9.5 APPROVAL PERIODS

Approval for projects can be given for a one to three year period. If the approval is given for more than one year, the investigator will notify the IACUC prior to each anniversary approval date of the following:

- ❖ whether the project will continue for another year;
- ❖ whether there are any changes to the protocol, number or type of species, or investigator. Minor changes may be submitted for approval in the memo; major changes will require the submission of a new protocol. Changes may not be implemented without IACUC approval;
- ❖ whether any problems were experienced during the past year, e.g., an unexpected number of animal deaths, undue stress experienced by the animals, or any mishaps to the researchers.

At the end of the third year of approval, a new protocol form should be filed with the IACUC.

9.6 IACUC RESOURCES

Many resources are available to researchers interested in learning more about the ethical treatment of animals in research and the role of the IACUC. See the website **www.jcu.edu/research/iacuc** for a list of holdings for the Reference Collection in the Office of Grants Administration, and for resources available at the Grasselli Library and through OhioLINK.

Primary sources, such as the Animal Welfare Act and *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, are available through links featured on the Grants Administration website. Links to other organizations of interest to animal researchers are also listed here.

For additional information or assistance on IACUC matters, contact the IACUC Administrator or any member of the committee. A list of current members is available on the website.

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Appendices to Section 9:

- ❖ **IACUC Protocol Review Form**
- ❖ **JCU Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals**
- ❖ **Committee Response Form for Protocol Review**