

IACUC Policy Number: 102	Version Number: 2.1
Approval Date: December 17, 2015	Effective Date: December 17, 2015
Title: Principal Investigator Responsibilities	

Purpose

To outline principal investigator (PI) responsibilities overseeing animal research and teaching as defined in the regulations.

Regulatory Background

Responsibilities required by the Principal Investigator are specified in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the Animal Welfare Regulations and the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Scope

This policy applies to all Princeton PIs using any species of animal and performing animal research and teaching at Princeton University, or at another institution, or in nature, on behalf of Princeton University.

Responsibility

As indicated in the policy described below.

Definitions

Principal Investigator - the person responsible for a proposal to conduct research and for the design and implementation of the research. In general, the PI is defined as the person signing an animal research protocol. Synonyms for PI include primary investigator or primary researcher. Based on input from the University Research Board, faculty and senior ranks of the research and technical staff serve as PIs or co-PIs.

Policy

As outlined in the Guide, Animal Welfare Regulations and the PHS Policy, the Principal Investigator:

1. Researchers may only perform procedures and manipulations to animals that have been described in an IACUC-approved animal use protocol.
2. Will use the appropriate species, strain, and model for the intended goals of the experimental hypotheses.
3. Will use the minimum number of animals to provide scientifically sound data.

4. Will consider that procedures that cause pain or distress in humans are likely to cause pain or distress in research animals. Whenever painful or distressful procedures are proposed:
 - a. Those procedures will occur only for the minimum amount of time necessary.
 - b. Analgesics, anesthetics, or tranquilizers will be provided unless scientific justification for withholding them is approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
 - c. Alternatives to animal use must be considered.
 - d. Alternative procedures to minimize pain and distress must be considered.
 - i. Alternatives can be described by considering the refinement, replacement, or reduction of animals used in painful or distressful procedures.
 - ii. Alternatives must also be considered by performing a literature search to look for alternatives to any procedures in the animal use protocol which may cause pain or distress.
 - iii. Princeton University Library Services staff are available to assist PIs with conducting literature searches.
 - e. Humane endpoints must be defined.
5. Will use methods of euthanasia consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia unless scientifically justified and approved by the IACUC.
6. Will ensure that investigators and staff are properly trained:
 - a. On all procedures outlined in the protocol.
 - b. On the humane aspects of animal use, handling, restraint, anesthesia, analgesia, and the assessment of pain and distress.
 - c. On the laws, guidelines, policies pertaining to animal welfare, including methods for reporting animal welfare concerns.
 - d. On aseptic technique, surgery, pre- and post-operative care if surgery is proposed in the protocol.
 - e. On safety in the workplace.
 - f. On the potential for zoonotic disease and laboratory animal allergy.
7. Will report adverse events and unexpected outcomes in accordance with IACUC Guideline 003, Adverse Events.
8. If conducting field research should be knowledgeable about relevant zoonotic diseases, associated safety issues, and any local or international laws or regulations that apply. Exceptions should be clearly defined and approved by the IACUC.
9. Will assure that the proposed activities do not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments.
10. Will abide by the decisions of the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC.
11. Follow and maintain compliance in accordance with IACUC policies.
12. Will maintain appropriate records in accordance with IACUC policies and Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) Standard Operating Procedures.

13. Will cooperate with IACUC and compliance inquiries and investigations.

References

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, National Academy Press. 2011. Chap 4, Veterinary Care

Animal Welfare Act: 9 CFR Section 3.3, Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care

AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia. 2013. Schaumburg, IL: American Veterinary Medical Association

Public Health Service. 2002. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Publication of the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare.

Version History

Version Number	Revision Date	Revisions
2.0	October 17, 2013	Major rewrite
2.1	December 17, 2015	Date change for IACUC review cycle