



BROWN

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

### Policy on Adoption of Research Animals

Date of IACUC Approval: April 6, 2018

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**I. Purpose:** This policy establishes policies and provides guidelines for adoption of research animals from Brown University.

**II. Background:**

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (1) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (3) discuss the termination of research animals at the conclusion of the research project. However, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (1) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (3) the PHS Policy (2), and the Animal Welfare Act (4) are silent on the issue of private adoption of research animals for pets after a study has been completed or the animals are no longer required for research. The 9 CFR recordkeeping regulations and official policies offer institutions the option of developing and implementing an adoption policy. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (5) are supportive of the adoption of research animals.

In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals, breeding of extra animals or ordering and receipt of animals unable to be used in the intended research, adoption into a private home shall be encouraged by the Brown University IACUC. Adoption is done in consultation with the principal investigator and is done at the discretion of the Attending veterinarian (or his/her designee). For a research animal to be eligible for adoption the following conditions must be met:

- The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
- The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements or pharmaceutically compounded veterinary drugs. If any FDA approved drugs have been administered to the animal the drug should be disclosed to the potential adopter.
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents are not eligible for adoption.
- Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals cannot be adopted.
- Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
- Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
- The adopter is responsible for any future medical care/support as may be required.

### III. Procedures:

The IACUC recommends the following set of procedures:

1. The principal investigator must first indicate that the animal is not needed for research, state that s/he has no knowledge of any fact that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption, and recommend the animal be offered for adoption. If the PI is aware of any conditions that may have an impact on the animal's suitability as a pet, this must be communicated to the potential adopter.
2. A Brown University veterinarian, licensed within the State of Rhode Island, will conduct a physical exam of the animal, including blood testing if indicated, provide appropriate vaccinations and order other tests as required to determine whether the animal is a suitable pet. Results of the exam and any test results should be furnished to the prospective new owner.
3. If an individual indicates an interest in adopting an animal, the Attending veterinarian or qualified designee will meet/talk with that individual and conduct an interview to determine the reasons for the adoption and the person's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare. The questionnaire attached as Appendix I is suggested to be completed by the veterinarian and adopter. Potential adopters will be screened by the veterinarian for their suitability, knowledge of the care of the type of animal, and qualifications.
4. A transfer form should be filled out by the PI or designee transferring dog or cat ownership to the new owner. APHIS form 7006 ("Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats") should be completed. For other USDA regulated species, form 7020 ("Record of Disposition of Animals other than Dogs and Cats") must be completed. Forms can be found at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/manuals/rig/section/5.4\\_rig.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/manuals/rig/section/5.4_rig.pdf)
5. Spaying, neutering, or other common surgical procedures may be performed prior to adoption, at the discretion of the veterinarian. The individual desiring to adopt the animal should complete and sign an Animal Adoption Agreement; a suggested form is attached as Appendix II. The original copy of this agreement will be retained by the Attending Veterinarian and copies will be placed into the animal's record and given to the new owner as proof of ownership transfer.
6. On the day the Animal Adoption Agreement is signed the animal should be transferred from the Brown University facilities to the new owner. Once the animal leaves the facility it is the possession of its new owner; Brown University will no longer be responsible for the animal, its care or any damage it may cause

### IV. REFERENCES:

1. **Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (U.S.).** 2011. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
2. **National Institutes of Health (U.S.). Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare., United**

- States. Public Health Service.** 2002. *Public Health Service policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals*. Bethesda, MD (6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda 20892-7982): Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, Dept. of Health and Human Services.
3. **Federation of Animal Science Societies.** 2010. *Guide for the care and use of agricultural animals in research and teaching* Champaign, IL.: FASS, Federation of Animal Science Societies.
  4. **United States., United States. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.** 2005. *Animal Welfare Act and animal welfare regulations*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
  5. **American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.** Adoption of Research Animals – ACLAM Position Statement updated October, 2017.  
<https://www.aclam.org/about/position-statements>, accessed February 18, 2018.

**Appendix 1**  
**Brown University Questionnaire for Animal Adoption**

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>		
<b>E-mail:</b>		
<b>Phone #:</b>		

**Check all that describe the prospective residence:**

- Single-family home
- Apartment, duplex or other multifamily dwelling
- I own my home
- I rent my home (does landlord allow pets?  Yes  No)
- Fenced yard
- Urban location
- Rural location
- Zoning restrictions on animals in prospective residence area

**How did you hear about this animal:** |            |

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**Where will the animal stay when you are at work?:** |            |

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**Please provide information about other pets in your home, including breed, sex, age, health, and any other pertinent details:**


**Name the veterinarian who will provide health care for this animal once you have adopted it:**

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**Animal to be adopted:**

<b>Species:</b>	
<b>Gender:</b>	
<b>ID:</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Brown University Veterinarian**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of interview**

**Recommendation:**

**Approve adoption**       **Disapprove adoption (give reasons below):**


**Appendix 1**  
**Brown University Animal Adoption Agreement**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am adopting the animal described below from the Brown University, and agree to be fully responsible for its future care, treatment, actions, and well-being.

The animal described below has been examined by Brown University veterinarian (Dr. \_\_\_\_\_) and has been determined to appear to be both clinically healthy and suitable as a companion animal except as noted below. I acknowledge and agree that (just as with any physical examination) this does not guarantee that the animal to be adopted has no health issues, but that none are known based upon that examination.

I have been given a copy of this Brown University "Animal Adoption Agreement". Having read this document, I attest that I understand the terms under which I take ownership of this animal and agree to fully comply with all the conditions of adoption. Additionally, I have had an opportunity to ask any health and husbandry-related questions and each question has been answered to my full satisfaction.

In accepting this animal, I agree to care for it in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of my and/or the animal's place of residence, including but not limited to having the animal spayed or neutered if applicable, vaccinated against rabies and registering the animal with local animal control officials as required. I further agree not to use this animal as a food source (for humans or other animals) or religious object or for any commercial purpose, including but not limited to breeding and exhibiting. I will not sell this animal or relinquish this animal to a shelter or rescue organization.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I hereby release and indemnify Brown University, its trustees, officers, employees and agents from any and all liability and expenses resulting from this adoption. I understand that Brown University accepts no liability for the animal's continuing care or veterinary treatment, or for any damages arising from my ownership of the animal once it has been removed from the Brown University facility.

Animal information:

<b>Species/Breed:</b>	_____
<b>Gender:</b>	_____
<b>Age:</b>	_____
<b>Description:</b>	_____
<b>Identification:</b>	_____
<b>Special health or behavioral notations:</b>	_____

**New owner:**

**Name (printed):**

**Address:**

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**Signature**

**Brown University Veterinarian:**

**Name (printed):**

**Title:**

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**Signature**