

 BROWN	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) : Policy on Adoption of Research Animals	POL # Pending Approval
		Effective Date: Pending Approval

1.0 Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the adoption of research animals from Brown University.

2.0 To Whom the Policy Applies

This policy applies to all individuals engaged in the adoption of research animals process at Brown University.

3.0 Policy Statement

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.

3.1 Background

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* ("The Guide") and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* ("The Ag Guide") discuss the termination of research animals at the conclusion of the research project. However, The Guide, The Ag Guide, the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, and the Animal Welfare Act 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 code of federal regulations 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 are supportive of the adoption of research animals. Brown has elected to support the adoption of research animals as set forth in this policy.

3.2 Adoption Eligibility

Adoption is done in consultation with the Principal Investigator (PI) and at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian (AV) or the AV's 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 as determined by the AV;
- The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than Food and Drug Administration (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;
- The animal must not have been exposed to infectious agents; and
- The animal must not be transgenic or immune-suppressed.

3.3 Adoption Process Recommended by the IACUC

- The PI must first indicate that the animal is not needed for research, affirm 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 by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) or veterinary designee.
- 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 will be furnished to the prospective new owner by the AV or veterinary designee.
- 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 linked to Section 7.3 below 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.
- All applicable federal, state and local forms will be completed as required.
- 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. 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.
- 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 Brown facility it is the possession of its new owner; Brown University will no longer be responsible for the animal or its care.

3.4 Adopter Responsibilities

- The adopter is responsible for any future medical care/support as may be required.
- Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold by the adopter.
- Animals must not be used by the adopter for human or animal consumption.

4.0 Definitions: N/A

5.0 Responsibilities

All individuals to whom this policy applies are responsible for becoming familiar with and following this policy. University supervisors are responsible for promoting the understanding of this policy and for taking appropriate steps to help ensure compliance with it.

6.0 Consequences for Violating this Policy

Violation of this policy may be considered a serious event of noncompliance that is reportable to the IACUC, funding and accrediting agencies, as well as other regulatory agencies. This is a serious matter that may adversely affect both the ability to perform animal work and acquire funding sources.

Failure to comply with this and related policies is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension without pay, or termination of employment or association with the University, in accordance with applicable (e.g., staff, faculty, student) disciplinary procedures.

7.0 Related Information

Brown University is a community in which employees are encouraged to share workplace concerns with University leadership. Additionally, **Brown's Anonymous Reporting Hotline** allows anonymous and confidential reporting on matters of concern online or by phone (877-318-9184).

The following information complements and supplements this document. The information is intended to help explain this policy and is not an all-inclusive list of policies, procedures, laws and requirements.

7.1 Related Policies: N/A

7.2 Related Procedures: N/A

7.3 Related Forms:

- **APHIS Forms**
- **Brown University Questionnaire for Animal Adoption**

7.4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): N/A

7.5 References:

- American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. Adoption of Research Animals – ACLAM Position Statement updated October, 2017. <https://www.aclam.org/about/position-statements>.
- 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.
- Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (U.S.). 2011. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
- National Institutes of Health (U.S.). Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare., United States. Public Health Service. 2015. *Public Health Service policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals*. Bethesda.
- United States. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. 2013. *Animal Welfare Act and animal welfare regulations*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- [OLAW. Frequently Asked Questions – Animal Adoption.](#)

8.0 Policy Owner and Contact(s)

8.1 Policy Owners: Vice President for Research

8.2 Policy Approved by: Vice President for Research

8.3 Subject Matter Contact: Brown University Animal Research Compliance

- Telephone: 401-863-3050
- Email: IACUC@Brown.edu

9.0 Policy History

9.1 Policy Effective Date: April 6, 2018

9.2 Policy Last Reviewed: October 2, 2020

9.3 Policy Update/Review Summary: This policy is not new; it was converted to the University's new compliance template and re-reviewed by the IACUC during its convened meeting October 2, 2020.