



BROWN

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Policy on Retirement of Non-Human Primates (NHPs)

Date of IACUC Approval: 5/31/2019

- I. Purpose:** This document provides guidance for the retirement of Non-Human Primates (NHPs) used in research at Brown University.
- II. Background:** In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals or ordering and receipt of animals unable to be used in the intended research, retirement to an appropriate sanctuary shall be encouraged by the Brown University IACUC.
- III. Procedures:** The Brown University AV or his/her designee in conjunction with the applicable PI (if any) shall make a determination based upon the animal history (including research history), the physical examination, the proposed animal use and other applicable factors, whether the candidate animal is suitable for retirement. For a research animal to be eligible for retirement the following conditions must be met:
 - In all cases, Brown University will adhere to applicable local, state, federal, and international laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines including verification that retirement does not constitute a prohibited gift
 - All retirement must comply with restrictions from funding source or sponsor
 - At the time of retirement, animals must not be actively involved in an IACUC-approved research protocol
 - Males must be vasectomized prior to retirement
 - The Brown University AV or Designee shall perform a complete physical examination on all candidate animals for retirement.
 - Animals to be retired must be deemed healthy upon physical examination with no detectable naturally or experimentally derived injury or disease that would impair their ability to thrive without special care. This determination is made by the Brown University AV and IACUC. The following is a list of characteristics that define a healthy animal:
 - i. Animals must be in overall good health
 - ii. Animals must be lacking any major abnormal morphology
 - iii. Animals must not exhibit any major behavioral issues
 - iv. Animals must be fully recovered and healed from any surgical procedures

The following are guidelines for the sanctuary vetting process. The AV must vet each sanctuary. Prior to sending any animal to a vetted sanctuary, the transfer to that sanctuary must be reviewed and approved by the AV and IACUC to confirm that the sanctuary is still acceptable. Information that the AV should request from the candidate sanctuary includes:

- Background information on the management structure and oversight of the facility (e.g., board of directors/trustees/etc.) including information on finances and how financial resources are allocated
- Staffing information such as the number of personnel and information about their education and training
- Background information on how the NHPs are cared for once they arrive at the facility: acclimation, diet, enrichment, monitoring frequency, health assessments, veterinary care, euthanasia, etc.
- Contact information for the facility's veterinarian(s)
- Emergency/Disaster planning documents
- Information on the date and findings of the facility's most recent GFAS site visit, and/or other relevant accrediting organization
- If applicable, the facility's position statement on the use of animals in research
- Reference names and contact information
- All documents that will need to be signed, including transfer of ownership forms and nondisclosure agreements, to be reviewed by Brown University's Office of General Counsel

The following is a list of sanctuaries that have previously been vetted by the AV. However, each retirement will require approval for the animal and retirement destination.

- Born Free USA
- Mindy's Memory
- Retirement Sanctuary for Laboratory Animals
- Oregon Primate Rescue

Once the AV has identified a suitable receiving organization and the facility has agreed to initiate a transfer, the AV and Office of General Counsel will sign the appropriate documents, including but not limited to:

- Confirmation of the animal's health and suitability for retirement
- A release of ownership of the animal
- A transfer of liability to the receiving organization