

# Use of Live Vertebrate Animals in Research or Instruction

## Lakeside Campuses Loyola University Chicago

November 2014

### **Statement of Policy**

Loyola University Chicago (Loyola) recognizes the importance of scientific and biological knowledge developed and taught through the use of live animals. The advancement of knowledge and improvements in the protection of the health and well-being of both humans and other animals provide strong justification for animal research. At the same time, Loyola recognizes a scientific and ethical responsibility to ensure that animals used by its faculty and students in research and instruction are used judiciously and spared all unnecessary pain and distress. The procedures outlined in this document are designed to ensure these outcomes.

All programs and facilities using animals at Loyola are operated in accordance with the NIH *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>), the National Research Council's *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals* (<http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309052998>), and applicable state and local laws and regulations. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of Loyola's Lakeside campuses oversees and evaluates the animal program and Animal Care Facility (ACF) on these campuses. IACUC members include a doctor of veterinary medicine experienced in laboratory animal science and medicine, one or more practicing scientists from Loyola who are experienced in animal research, and at least one member from the public-at-large who is not professionally affiliated with Loyola or involved in laboratory animal use and who represents the general community's interest in the proper care of animals. All committee members must fulfill specific training requirements that are specified at <http://www.luc.edu/ors/citicourse/>. The main functions of the IACUC include but are not limited to: (1) review of proposed uses of animals in research, testing or education, (2) evaluation and inspection of the animal facility and activity areas, (3) submission of evaluation and inspection reports to responsible institutional officials, and (4) receipt and review of concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution.

The IACUC is required to meet at least once every six months. However, monthly meetings are routinely held to ensure the timely review of research protocols. Records are maintained by Loyola's Assistant Director for Research Compliance to document the results of deliberations. The committee reviews the animal-care program and inspects the animal care facility and all other animal use facilities (Labs, etc.) every six months. After this review and inspection, a written report is composed which includes the findings and is signed by the majority of the IACUC members. The report is then sent to Loyola's Institutional Official, the Associate Provost for Research.

Loyola faculty members who want to use live animals for research, testing or educational purposes are required to submit formal, written applications to the IACUC for review and approval before any activities involving live animals can begin. Upon submitting these applications, each faculty member assures that he/she will take full responsibility for the proper training of all students and personnel involved in the handling of animals and for providing humane care and treatment of all animals in compliance with the law and guidelines referenced above.

## **Institutional Organization of Animal Care and Use Programs**

Day-to-day administration of and responsibility for the ACF is shared by the Office of Research Services (ORS) (responsible for the physical plant, cleaning supplies, maintenance contracts on major items of equipment, etc.), the ACF Director, and department/unit heads who have faculty or personnel working with animals.

The primary responsibility for maintaining the ACF and its animals falls to the ACF Director. The IACUC will make regular inspections of the ACF. The Institutional Official responsible for the operation of the Lake Shore ACF and for reporting to the Public Health Service (PHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the Associate Provost for Research. The Associate Provost Research is advised by the ACF Advisory Committee, as described below.

Policy determination, however, lies exclusively with the members of the IACUC who are appointed by the President of the University, and who, through their chairperson, report to the Associate Provost for Research and ultimately to the Provost.

### **Provisions for Reporting Animal Care Concerns**

All comments, questions, or reports of violation of standards are welcomed: they should be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the IACUC (Biology Dept., Quinlan Life Sciences Center, LSC) or to the Associate Provost for Research (Granada Center, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, LSC). The identity of the people filing such reports of violations will be held in the strictest of confidence; anonymous reports will be accepted as well.

### **IACUC Procedures**

IACUC procedures are described at <http://www.luc.edu/ors/iacuc/index.shtml>.

### **ACF Procedures**

Procedures relating to the lakeside Animal Care Facility are described in a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) available in the online CAP system.

### **ACF Advisory Committee**

The Animal Care Facility (ACF) Advisory Committee provides an administrative forum for reviewing, evaluating, and recommending strategies, plans, and policies for use of the ACF by lakeside campuses faculty in order to support and advance research and training efforts that involve the use of laboratory animals. Specifically the Committee is charged to set policies on use of ACF resources, including procedures for sharing those resources and allocating space appropriately to stakeholders; receive periodic reports from the ACF Director on ACF operations; conduct regular usage reviews to ensure that the ACF is providing the maximum benefit to qualified and priority faculty research and training efforts (including the housing of new protocols as well as retirement planning for inactive projects); and contribute to defining a long-term strategy for funding and managing shared animal care resources, including maintenance, security, and personnel. Ex officio members are: the Associate Provost for Research, the ACF Director, the IACUC chair, and the Assistant Director for Research Compliance. Other members represent the departments/units that have faculty using animals housed in the ACF.