Policy Statement

1. Responsibilities and requirements for Principal investigators (PI) on animal care and use protocols.
   a. The PI is responsible for ensuring that distress, discomfort, or pain to animals will be limited to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of valid scientific research or teaching.
   b. The PI provides veterinary approved anesthesia and analgesia for procedures that potentially cause distress, discomfort, or pain to animals.
   c. The PI assures that the proposed activities in an animal care and use protocol are not unnecessarily duplicative research or experiments.
d. The PI assures that all experiments or teaching activities involving live animals will be performed under their supervision or that of another qualified scientist.

e. The PI assures that all individuals having direct contact with animals have been trained in humane and scientifically appropriate procedures of animal handling, administration of anesthetics, analgesics, and euthanasia. Also, these individuals are given the opportunity to participate in the Institution’s Occupational Health and Safety Program.

f. The PI or their designate must obtain the necessary permits to collect or observe animals in the wild.

g. The PI will maintain complete, up-to-date and accessible records of animal use that are required by BIACUC policy and regulatory agencies.

h. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure the safe and ethical conduct of all research performed or teaching activities with animals; the research and teaching comply with the Institution’s Letter of Assurance to OLAW and all applicable state and federal laws governing animal welfare.

i. The PI is strongly encouraged to submit protocol applications and amendments him/herself; if this process is delegated to laboratory personnel (e.g., research assistant, laboratory manager) or students (e.g., post-doc, graduate student), then the PI must be copied on the submission email.

j. In the event of a sudden departure or death of a PI, the Department Chair or qualified scientist may submit a protocol amendment to replace the PI.

2. Titles that may serve as PIs for animal care and use protocols:
   a. Tenure Track Professors
   b. Lecturers
   c. Emeritus Professors
   d. Various clinical Professors
   e. Various Scholars/Scientists or
   f. Additional titles granting PI status and as approved by the office of Vice Provost for Research, for the purpose of obtaining external grant support and facilitating incoming faculty researchers.

3. Titles that may serve as co-PIs for animal care and use protocols:
   a. Graduate students having been admitted to Ph.D. candidacy
   b. Post-doctoral fellow
   c. Visiting Scientist
   d. Research Associate
Reason for Policy

The IACUC recognizes that a primary mission of a Research 1 University is the training and education of researchers in the pre- and post-doctoral graduate ranks. These individuals may design and execute research programs that require the use of animals. This research can be supported by fellowships and grants targeted to pre- and post-doctoral students. The IACUC realizes that individuals in the graduate and post-doctoral ranks are competent to independently design, perform, and share in the responsibilities entailed in animal research.

However, the IACUC does not believe that members of the graduate and postdoctoral ranks can undertake the full range of responsibilities required by OLAW/USDA. While it is acceptable for non-Principal Investigators to be fully involved in the authorship of protocols and amendments, the IACUC believes that PIs, not students, should bear ultimate responsibility for consequences and sanctions which result from non-compliance and/or unethical use of animals.

As such, members of the graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, visiting scientist, and research associate ranks (listed above in #3) must seek support of Indiana University faculty (listed above in #2: Titles that may serve as PIs for animal use and care protocols) to submit an Animal Care and Use protocol. In these cases, the faculty member serves as the PI on the protocol while the graduate or post-doctoral student serves as co-PI. All communication regarding the protocol approval process must include both the PI and co-PI. It is recommended that the PI should be the student’s thesis advisor or direct supervisor.

However, other faculty members could serve as PI, providing the supervising faculty member or thesis advisor provides written permission. If the PI departs the Institution, the co-PI must identify another PI to continue the protocol.

Further, the IACUC understands that wildlife permits for collecting or observing animals in the field may be in the name of the co-PI rather than the PI.

Contacts

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PI Status</td>
<td>BIACUC Administrator</td>
<td>855-5138</td>
<td><a href="mailto:biacuc@indiana.edu">biacuc@indiana.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Web Address for this Policy

http://researchcompliance.iu.edu/iacuc/iub/biacuc_policies.html