



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Office of Research Compliance (ORC)
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Adoption of Animals Used in University-Sponsored Activities

Policy Statement
Scope
Policy

Effective: 2.2019
Last Updated: 2.2019

Responsible University Office:
Office of Research Compliance IACUC Office(s)

Responsible University Administrator:
Vice President for Research

Policy Contacts:
Indianapolis: somiacuc@iupui.edu

Policy Statement

To establish the circumstances and procedures by which animals used in University-sponsored activities and that are owned by the University and considered property of the State of Indiana, may be considered for adoption as pets.

Scope

This policy applies to live vertebrate animals owned by the University and used in University-sponsored activities either in campus facilities or at off-campus locations.

Policy

1. Upon completion of a research or teaching project, mice, rats, dogs, pigs, and fish that are not needed for another approved research or teaching protocol may be considered for adoption. Domestic fish from a research or teaching protocol may be adopted as pets, but not to stock ponds for fishing or to serve as food for other animals.
2. Adoption will be granted only to Indiana University School of Medicine students, staff, and faculty when adoption is indicated as an option on the relevant approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol(s).
3. An individual may adopt a maximum of two animals. Future adoptions may be considered when one or both of the original adopted animals die. The Chair and/or Attending Veterinarian will determine on a case-by-case basis the number of fish that may be adopted.
4. The LARC Attending Veterinarian will consider requests for adoption of animals' subject to this policy on a case-by-case basis.
5. Due to potential environmental concerns no animal that has been part of an IBC study (e.g., transgenic animal, injected with biological) may be adopted out as a pet.

Procedures

The eventual disposition (euthanasia, transfer to another protocol, or adoption) of all animals used for teaching or research must be clearly stated within the approved IACUC Animal Use Protocol. Specific requirements concerning disposition of animals by a funding or sponsoring agency should be noted in the animal use protocol.

When the option for a dog, pig, or other animals besides mice, rats, or fish, is adoption or transfer to another protocol, the Principal Investigator (PI) will notify the IACUC office and IACUC Chair who, in consultation with the Attending Veterinarian or designee, will decide the final disposition of the animal(s) on the following prioritized basis:

1. Transfer to another approved protocol for use by another faculty member of the Indiana University School of Medicine or Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis.
2. Consideration for adoption if transfer to another research or teaching protocol is not appropriate.

Problems of health or temperament, or other unforeseen problems, may preclude transfer between protocols or adoption.

The following sequential procedures must be completed in order for an animal to be considered for adoption:

1. The PI listed on the **Approved School of Medicine IACUC Protocol** will notify the IACUC Office that the animal(s) is available for adoption.
2. The IACUC Chair or designee, in consultation with the appropriate Attending Veterinarian and the relevant IACUC protocol, will determine if:
 - a. other PIs have a need for the animal(s) in their teaching or research programs, and
 - b. the animal(s) in question are suitable for use in the research or teaching protocol to which they would be transferred.

In all cases, needs of the University teaching and research programs should be considered before animals are released for adoption, except in the case where adoption is mandated by the funding entity.

3. If the animal(s) are released for adoption, the PI must complete the **Investigator Request for Release of Animal for Adoption** form to assure the IACUC Chair and the Attending Veterinarian, that in the PI's opinion, each animal that may be available for adoption would make a suitable pet.
4. The Attending Veterinarian or his/her designee will perform a physical exam of the animal(s) and certify that the animal is suitable for adoption.
5. To affirm that the potential owner will obtain the necessary vaccinations, the person desiring to adopt the animal(s) must complete the **Request for Adoption of Purchased Research/Teaching Animals** form.

Once these conditions have been met, the animal(s) can be offered for adoption.

In all cases, the IACUC Chair, and/or the Attending Veterinarian has the right to deny any adoption request. If the IACUC Chair and the Attending Veterinarian approve the adoption, the prospective owner must an appointment at their own expense for the animal to be examined, vaccinated, if necessary, by a veterinarian. The animal to be adopted will be neutered/spayed by a LARC Veterinarian prior to the adoption being finalized.

The fiscal responsibility for all non-terminal animals will remain the responsibility of the PI or their home department following the completion of the study or instruction until final disposition is accomplished. The PI or department will be charged the full unsubsidized per diem rate for the care of these animals. No federal or state funds will be used to cover per diem charges for animals during the adoption process. If adoption is anticipated, the PI should identify funds in advance for extending the per diem period and for covering the cost of the required physical examination prior to adoption. Some sponsors will consider requests to fund per diem beyond the length of a study in order to permit adoption.

Animals on active research or teaching protocols have priority for housing whereas animals pending adoption can only be housed on a space-available basis.

To avoid tax complications for donors, in general, any animal donated to the University (or the University Foundation) whose value exceeds \$5,000.00 will not be eligible for adoption unless:

1. the animal was owned by the University (or the Foundation) for a minimum of three years, or
2. the University (or the Foundation) certifies on IRS Form 8282 that
 - a. the use of the animal was related to the University's tax-exempt purposes, or
 - b. the use of the animal was not related to the University's tax-exempt purposes and the intended use of the animal became impossible or unfeasible to implement.

The forms referenced in this document are available at: <https://research.iu.edu/policies/iupui-animal-care-and-use.html>

- Request for Animal Adoption Checklist
- Investigator Request for Release of Animal for Adoption
- Request for Adoption of Purchased Research/Teaching Animals

Exceptions

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the Vice President for Research/Institutional Official.