

 <p>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guiding Principles and Procedures</p>	<p>Effective: March 15, 2012</p> <p>Revised:</p>
<p>Title: Confidentiality</p>	<p>Page 1 of 2</p>

Guiding Principle

To protect the integrity of the university and its researchers IACUC members must not: a) Disclose confidential or proprietary information (protocol or investigator specific) to any person who is not a member of the IACUC or b) discuss, or disclose any details of IACUC business (e.g. protocol reviews, noncompliance reports, or subcommittee investigations/reports, etc.) to third parties without the consent of the IACUC Chair, Attending Veterinarian, and/or Designee as applicable.

To adequately evaluate the humane and ethical use of animals, it is necessary to have a free and open exchange of information. However, documentation provided to the IACUC for its review shall be considered confidential information and IACUC members must, therefore, assure the confidentiality of the information contained therein. All IACUC applications and other sensitive review materials must be stored and held in a secure location and/or disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Under the Animal Welfare Act IACUC members who violate confidentiality may be subject to significant fines. However, this provision of the Animal Welfare Act is not intended to discourage participation on the IACUC, but rather to protect the university. The USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations (which implement the Animal Welfare Act itself) state that a report of animal welfare violations to regulatory agencies by any IACUC members is **NOT** a violation of confidentiality requirements.

The IACUC feels its members are a vital link between their respective departments and the committee and views the sharing of information in faculty and staff meetings as an important benefit. The information, that can be shared, may include such items as IACUC concepts, policies, regulations, and educational issues, providing that no specific personal, confidential, or proprietary information is divulged.

Requirements

Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2157)

“(a) It shall be unlawful for any member of an Institutional Animal Committee to release any confidential information of the research facility including information that concerns or relates to- (1) the trade secrets, processes, operation, style of work, or apparatus; or (2) the identity, confidential statistical data, amount or source of any income, profits, losses, or expenditures, of the research facility.”

“(b) It shall be unlawful for any member of such committee- (1) to use or attempt to use to his advantages; or (2) to reveal to any other person, any information which is entitled to protection as confidential information under subsection (a).”

(c) A violation of subsection (a) or (b) is punishable by- (1) removal by such committee; and (2) (A) a fine of not more than \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than a year; or (B) if such violation is willful, a fine of not more than \$10,000 and imprisonment of not more than three years.