Guiding Principle

Most research, teaching, and testing protocols using animals at North Dakota State University have the following attributes: 1) The Principal Investigator of the project is an employee of NDSU, 2) the animals used in the project are university owned animals, 3) the location on which the project is conducted is owned by NDSU.

This Guiding Principle will outline the requirements for IACUC oversight when either privately owned animals are used or location of the project is privately owned land or when both situations apply. This Guiding Principle does not apply to situations where non-domesticated animals are the focus of the study. The non-domesticated animals are considered to be publicly owned.

Requirements

The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy in accordance with IV.C. 1-8 and the United States Department of Agriculture AWA USDA 2.31 (d) In order to approve proposed research projects or proposed significant changes in ongoing research projects, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed research projects are in accordance with this policy. In making this determination, the IACUC shall confirm that the research project will be conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act insofar as it applies to the research project and that the research project is consistent with the Guide unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented. Further, the IACUC shall determine that the research project conforms to the institutions Animal Welfare Assurance and meets the requirements contained in these regulations.

The PHS Policy and Animal Welfare Act and Regulations do not distinguish between animals owned by the institution and privately owned animals. The following guidelines have been established to aid investigators in preparing IACUC protocols that utilize privately owned animals.
Procedure

1. **The Use of Privately Owned Domesticated Farm Animals on University Property in Research, Teaching and Testing**

   1.1. For the situation where the use of privately owned farm animals occurs on university owned (or leased) property, all of the regulations and policies applied to University owned animals along with standard IACUC oversight practices and procedures apply. Standard oversight practices include semiannual site inspections by the IACUC (with follow-up visits as necessary) and unrestricted access to the animals and associated health records by the Attending Veterinarian (or delegate). In addition, written consent must be signed by the Owner (or delegate). Consent may be in the form of a contract, memorandum of understanding, consent form, or other agreements. Elements in the consent must include:

   - Who will be responsible for non-research related health issues such as vaccination, deworming, injuries, infections, medications, and other medically related issues
   - The final disposition of animal(s) at the conclusion of the project.
   - Under what circumstances the project can be terminated and by whom.

2. **The Use of Privately Owned Domesticated Farm Animals on Privately Owned Property in Research, Teaching, or Testing**

   2.1. For arrangements where the sole vertebrate animal use involves the receipt of non-invasively obtained samples (blood, feces, nasal swabs, etc.) collected by employees/owners of the farm (non-NDSU personnel) and transferred to NDSU investigators or personnel for research efforts without remuneration, the IACUC will defer oversight of sample collection to the standard operating procedures and practices of the private farm. IACUC oversight will be restricted to those practices and procedures involving NDSU personnel.

   2.2. For situations where the use of privately owned farm animals occurs on privately owned property where the Principal Investigator (PI) or his/her laboratory personnel are active participants in specimen collection and in minor non-invasive procedures, the IACUC will delegate much of the standard IACUC oversight practices and procedures to the PI. The PI must provide written assurance to the IACUC initially upon submission of a new protocol application and on an annual basis that the facility meets or exceeds contemporary farm performance standards (those typical of well-run farms in the area) of animal care and husbandry. The assurance should be submitted to the IACUC Office and will become part of the protocol file.
Subsequent to the initial assurance, in the event the PI becomes aware of, or has reason to suspect, that the facility no longer meets or exceeds contemporary farm performance standards of animal care and husbandry, or that animal abuse has, or may be occurring at the facility, the PI must immediately inform the IACUC Office and immediately cease all research activities at the facility until the issue is addressed by the IACUC. In such case, the level of IACUC oversight will be elevated. An IACUC investigation will be initiated with the results and recommendations by the IACUC investigative committee brought before the full IACUC. The outcome will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

2.3. For the situation where the use of privately owned farm animals occurs on privately owned property where the PI is an active participant and more involved in procedures such as invasive procedures, tissue sample collection, rectal/uterine palpation, etc., additional oversight by the IACUC will be required. Specific oversight procedures needed in these situations will be determined by the IACUC in consideration of the specific circumstances.

For all off-site activities, PIs should consult with the Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Institution to discuss an appropriate use agreement, which might involve a release of liability.

3. The Use of University Owned Domesticated Farm Animals on Privately Owned Property in Research, Teaching, or Testing

3.1. For situations where use of University owned farm animals occurs on privately owned (or leased) property, all of the regulations and policies applied to University owned animals along with standard IACUC oversight practices and procedures apply. Standard oversight practices include semiannual site inspections (with follow-up visits as necessary) and unrestricted access to the animals and associated health records by the Attending Veterinarian (or delegate). In addition, written consent must be signed by the owner (or delegate). Consent may be in the form of a contract, memorandum of agreement, consent form, or other agreements. Elements in the consent must include:

- Who will be responsible for non-research related health issues such as vaccination, deworming, injuries, infections, medications, and other medically-related issues;
- The final disposition of animal(s) at the conclusion of the project;
- Under what circumstances the project can be terminated and by whom.

Access to the University animals will be completely unrestricted.

4. The IACUC reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy on a case by case basis and approve proposed activities in certain situations (e.g. activities that are considered
to cause no or minimal potential pain/distress, are conducted in appropriate facilities, conducted by experts in the field, etc.)