

📄 Laboratory Animal Welfare.pdf

<https://research.umn.edu/units/iacuc/about-us/overview>

The University of Minnesota requires all campuses and members of extension that are practicing research to gain approval from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The Committee reviews:

- Activities with animals conducted by University faculty, staff, or students
- Activities with animals performed on the premises of the University
- Activities with animals performed with or involving the use of facilities or equipment belonging to the University
- Activities with animals satisfying a requirement imposed by the University for a degree program or completion of a course of study
- Activities with animals certified by a dean or department head to satisfy an obligation of a faculty appointment at the University, including requirements for clinical or adjunct appointments

The review the following criteria:

- All activities involving animals are in accord with PHS Policy, the Animal Welfare Act, University and IACUC policy, etc.
- A clear rationale is provided for involving animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers of animals to be used.
- Animal living conditions are consistent with standards of housing, feeding, and care as directed by a veterinarian or scientist with appropriate expertise. Medical care is provided by a qualified veterinarian. Investigators are responsible for arranging suitable housing pursuant to the regulations and in accordance with any permits for the usage.
- The investigator has considered alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animal and has provided a written narrative description of the methods and sources used to determine that alternatives are not available.
- The application includes a complete description of the proposed use of the animals and procedures designed to assure that discomfort and pain will be limited to that which is unavoidable for the conduct of scientifically valuable research, including provision for the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs where indicated and appropriate to minimize discomfort and pain.
- The investigator has planned for the appropriate monitoring of animals, reasonable surgical interventions, and the responsible euthanasia of those animals consistent with AVMA recommendations under specified conditions.
- Documentation or copies of any necessary permits are included.
- All personnel are appropriately trained and qualified to conduct the research or other activity at hand.

The committee uses federal regulations as well as Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training (1985), the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Research Council, 2011), and the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition to guide their decisions and determine if everything is in compliance.