

# USF IACUC Services for Research Involving Animals

Research Integrity & Compliance  
USF IACUC program



Hi, I'm Andy Mackley, the IACUC Administrator and I'm going to provide a brief overview of the USF IACUC program.

## USF Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Program

- Provides oversight of research activities involving vertebrate animals at USF and its affiliated institutions (e.g. Moffitt and VA)
- Facilitates compliance of animal research activities with federal regulations and guidelines (e.g. OLAW, USDA) and AAALAC accreditation
- Performs investigations of allegations of non-compliance
- Performs semi-annual facility and program inspections of vivarium, satellite facilities and labs where animals are used
- Provides IACUC education and training courses



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IACUC is an acronym for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The IACUC program, which consists of the IACUC committee and IACUC administration support staff, provides oversight of animal research activities and assures compliance with federal regulations and guidelines, including investigations of any potential non-compliance allegations. They perform semiannual inspection and review of the entire animal research program and provide education and training for anyone working with animals in the vertebrate animal research program.

## USF Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Functions



- Oversees and regulates all aspects of the animal care and use program, procedures and facilities at USF and its affiliated Institutions
- Ensures that humane care & use of animals is in accordance with:
  - The Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition
  - The Animal Welfare Act & USDA Regulations – USF USDA registration number: 58-R-0015
  - Public Health Service (PHS) Policy – USF PHS Assurance number: D-16-00589 (A4100-01)
  - USF Policies and SOPs
  - USF is fully accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALACi). USF AAALACi Accreditation number: 434
- Represents the institution in the community

The IACUC is responsible for a variety of functions. It has authority over all aspects of animal care and use, procedures, and facilities, at any institution which uses the USF IACUC as their IACUC of record. In addition to the USF Tampa campus this includes, USF Saint Petersburg, USF Sarasota-Manatee, the James A Haley Veterans Administration Hospital, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, New College Florida (Sarasota), and the Keys Marine Laboratory (Long Key in the Florida Keys), as well as some private businesses on a fee for service basis.

As the IACUC of record, they ensure that animal care and use is carried out in accordance with all regulations and guidelines, including:

- the Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals
- the Animal Welfare Act & USDA Regulations
- Public Health Service (PHS) Policies
- and USF policies and procedures

Additionally, USF has maintained accreditation by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALACi) since 1974. AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment

programs.

## Animals Use that USF IACUC Oversees

- Live vertebrate animals
- Animals covered under the definition:
  - Non-human primates, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters (USDA)
  - rats, mice
  - snakes, birds, fish, frogs, turtles
- Field studies must also be reviewed, that is those - conducted on free-living wild animals in natural habitat
- All research/teaching activities involving live vertebrates conducted at USF or its affiliated institutions, or in field studies by USF faculty & staff and or using USF funds.



The IACUC has purview over any research involving live vertebrate animals.

USDA regulations cover the use of some animals, including, but not limited to, non-human primates, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, pigs, sheep, goats, cattle and horses.

The PHS policy, enforced by enforced by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), covers the use of reptiles, amphibians, fish, and purpose bred rats and mice.

Additionally, the PHS policy requires that field studies, research conducted on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat, be reviewed and approved by the IACUC.

The IACUC is responsible for reviewing all research or teaching involving live vertebrate animals, conducted at USF or affiliate institutions, and field studies conducted by USF or affiliate faculty and staff, or that use USF funds.

## IACUC Submissions for Review



- Applications for Research Compliance (ARC)
  - Electronic Submission System for applications requiring IACUC approval
  - Individuals must register for access to the system
  - Training is available for new users
  - Visit <https://arc.research.usf.edu/prod> for additional information

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All IACUC studies are submitted and processed online through our Applications for Research Compliance (ARC) system.

The eIACUC system is conveniently accessed online from anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

While most find it easy to use, we provide training for beginning users upon request.

## IACUC Protocol Applications

- The IACUC meets monthly
- Veterinarians pre-review all applications
- The IACUC must review and approve all applications prior to the start of the research
- **New Research** protocols require a Full Committee Review (FCR)
- The following applications are reviewed through Designated Member Review (DMR)
  - Renewals of research protocols previously approved by this IACUC (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Renewal)
  - Research protocols only involving animals in Pain Category A (USDA Category C)
  - Protocols for the study of Wild Animals in or from Natural Settings
  - Breeding colony protocols
  - Animal Tissue Use Only protocols
  - Antiserum Production protocols

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All proposed research with live vertebrate animals must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to beginning the research.

Protocols must be reviewed by a veterinarian before it is submitted for IACUC review.

The USF IACUC has two distinct process to review and approve proposed animal research, Full Committee Review (FCR) and Designated ember Review (DMR).

Full Committee Review (FCR) takes place at a convened IACUC meeting where the application is reviewed by the entire committee and a determination is voted on by a quorum of members attending the meeting. Studies reviewed by Full Committee can be Approved, found to Require Modification to Secure Approval (RMSA) or disapproved. RMSA studies either return to Full Committee Review for approval (RMSA-FCR) or be delegated to a committee member from the meeting to confirm that the modifications were adequate for approval (RMSA-DMR).

Designated Member Review (DMR) is an expedited review process wherein all IACUC members are afforded three days to examine submitted studies. After the review period, if no member has reason to recommend the study for full committee review,

it is assigned to a designated member for review and approval, where the Designated Member provides a determination on behalf of the entire IACUC. The Designated Member Reviewer may Approve the study, Require Modification to Secure Approval, or recommend for Full Committee Review. They cannot disapprove an application; disapproval can only occur at a convened IACUC meeting.

Only a small number of studies are reviewed by Full Committee, the only studies required to undergo Full Committee Review are Research or Teaching applications which have not been previously approved by this committee.

Most studies are processed via DMR, including:

- Research or Teaching applications which have been previously approved by this committee (3-year renewal protocols)
- Studies with animals only in pain category C (Category A protocols)
- Protocols for the study of wild animals in or from natural settings (Wildlife protocols)
- Breeding protocols (Colony protocols)
- Antiserum Production Protocols
- Animal Tissue Use Only protocols



## Semiannual Inspections and Program Review

- A comprehensive inspection and review of the entire animal care and use program is required every six months.
- The IACUC must inspect all locations where live vertebrate animals are housed or taken as part of the research protocol.
- Any deficiencies must be addressed by facility management or the primary investigator.
- All IACUC policies and procedures are reviewed to ensure they are in compliance with current regulations.
- Semiannual inspection results are reported to the Institutional Official.



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### SEMIANNUAL INSPECTIONS AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Twice per year the IACUC must conduct a comprehensive inspection and review of the entire animal care and use program at the institution. At USF we conduct this in April and October.

During the Semiannual inspections, all locations where live vertebrate animals are housed or transported to, even temporarily, must be visited and inspected by members of the IACUC committee to ensure compliance with all regulations and guidelines. The inspected locations include all animal facilities managed by USF Comparative Medicine, as well as any laboratories where investigators transport live animals. Any deficiencies noted at the inspections must be corrected and confirmation of the corrective actions reported to the IACUC.

At the semiannual program review, IACUC members examine the IACUC program to make certain the IACUC policies and procedures are in compliance with current **USDA regulations, PHS Policy, and the Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals.**

The results of the semiannual inspection and program review and any required corrective actions are reported to the Institutional Official.

## Animal Welfare Concerns

- The IACUC is mandated to evaluate any concerns regarding care and use of animals at the Institution
- Concerns may be reported by staff or employees of the Institution, individuals in the community, or members of IACUC
- Concerns may be reported to Comparative Medicine Staff, IACUC chairperson/members or IACUC Staff
- Concerns may be reported anonymously via Ethics Point (1-866-974-8411) or at <http://www.usf.edu/compliance-ethics/>
- The IACUC has procedures for handling allegations of mistreatment or noncompliance



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### ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNS

The IACUC is responsible for investigating any animal care and use concerns at the institution.

These concerns may come from a variety of sources, including research staff, employees of the Institution, individuals in the community, or members of IACUC. Concerns can be reported to Comparative Medicine veterinarians or animal care staff, the IACUC chairperson or members of the IACUC, or IACUC administration staff.

Concerns may also be reported anonymously via USF's Ethics Point system, by phone at 1-866-974-8411, or online at USF's Compliance & Ethics webpage. (<http://www.usf.edu/compliance-ethics/>)

Animal welfare concerns are taken very seriously and the IACUC has procedures for handling allegations of mistreatment or noncompliance.

# IACUC Certification

Anyone who works with vertebrate animals or tissue MUST be certified by the IACUC and recertified every six (6) years.

- Certification requires an ARC account as well as online and possibly live trainings
- IACUC certification records are maintained in the ARC system under individual profiles

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*To initiate the certification process email [iacuc@usf.edu](mailto:iacuc@usf.edu)*

[IACUC Forms and Resources](#)

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## IACUC TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

In order to work with live vertebrate animals an individual must be listed on an approved IAUC protocol and to be added to a protocol the individual must register in the ARC system and complete the IACUC certification process.

IACUC Certification requires online and possibly live trainings, depending on the type of work the individual will be performing. Certification of the required training must be uploaded to the individuals ARC account.

IACUC certification records are maintained in the ARC system under individual profiles, and individuals must be re-certified every six years.

## Contact Information

IACUC email: [iacuc@usf.edu](mailto:iacuc@usf.edu)

**IACUC Coordinator; Concerns & Compliance issues**  
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*Additional Information at: [www.research.usf.edu/dric/iacuc](http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/iacuc)*

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That’s a brief overview of the primary tasks of the USF IACUC.

Are there any questions?