University of Cincinnati
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

Required Transfer of Animals to Outside Institutions

This policy applies to all animals covered by an IACUC protocol at the University of Cincinnati. Compliance with the policy is required if animals under a UC IACUC protocol are to be manipulated at a non-University of Cincinnati institution (e.g. Children’s Hospital Research Foundation, Veteran’s Affairs). Since the UC IACUC also serves Shriner’s Hospital for Children, the following requirements do not apply to animals transferred between UC and Shriner’s.

The following guidance has been provided by the National Institutes of Health:

NO REQUIREMENT FOR DUPLICATE REVIEW

There are many circumstances that involve partnerships between collaborating institutions or relationships between institutional animal care programs. OLAW and APHIS agree that review of a research project or evaluation of a program or facility by more than one recognized IACUC is not a federal requirement.

It is imperative that institutions define their respective responsibilities. PHS Policy requires that all awardees and performance sites hold an approved Animal Welfare Assurance. OLAW negotiates Inter-institutional Agreement Assurances of Compliance when an awardee institution without an animal care and use program or IACUC will rely on the program of an Assured institution. Assured institutions also have the option to amend their Assurance to cover non-assured performance sites, which effectively subjugates the performance site to the Assured institution and makes the Assured institution responsible for the performance site.

If both institutions have full PHS Assurances, they may exercise discretion in determining which IACUC reviews research protocols and under which institutional program the research will be performed. It is recommended that if an IACUC defers protocol review to another IACUC, then documentation of the review should be maintained by both committees. Similarly, an IACUC would want to know about any significant questions or issues raised during a semiannual program inspection by another IACUC of a facility housing a research activity for which that IACUC bears some responsibility or exposure.

Based on this guidance and in the best interest of the animal care and use program at the University of Cincinnati, UC’s IACUC requires the transfer of animals through LAMS to the outside institution. The outside institution must have full PHS Assurance and an approved animal use protocol that includes the work to be conducted at that institution. In addition, LAMS must approve the transfer of animals back to UC. UC will no longer regulate non-UC areas; therefore, disclosure of specific non-UC areas is not required in the UC protocol and UC IACUC inspection will not be conducted.