Office of Research, Grants and Contracts  
IACUC Regulations

Internal Regulation Title | Animal Adoption  
Date Last Revised | 09/24/2017  
Date Created | 07/26/2011  
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Regulation Number | 10  
Required by | ☒Researcher ☐Institutional  
Applicability | ☐RGC Internal ☒Researcher ☐Institutional  
Subgroup | ☒IRB ☒IACUC ☐IBC

1.0 Purpose

This document establishes internal regulations and provides guidelines for adoption of research animals from the Northern Kentucky University.

2.0 General Information and Scope

When feasible, the IACUC permits the adoption of healthy animals as an alternative to euthanasia. Principal Investigators (PI) have the responsibility for ensuring that animal adopters are aware of all applicable IACUC policies (i.e. the Animal Transport Policy) before animals are transferred out of NKU animal housing facilities.

3.0 Details

A. ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

- Animals must be clinically and behaviorally healthy with non-reported problems
- Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals may never be adopted
- The animal must have not been subjected to a research major surgical procedure. Routine veterinary surgeries are exempted.
- The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements or pharmaceutically compounded veterinary drugs. If any FDA approved drugs have been administered to the animal the drug should be disclosed to the potential adopter
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents are not eligible for adoption
- The adopter is responsible for any future medical care/support as may be required.

B. PROHIBITED USES FOR ADOPTED ANIMALS

- Petting zoos or similar venues
- Human consumption
- Re-sale
- Breeding stock for commercial purposes (i.e. sales of offspring)

4.0 Procedures
1) PI must:
   • indicate that the animal is not needed for research at NKU
   • state that s/he has no knowledge of any fact that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption
   • Recommend the animal be offered for adoption.
2) The animal to be offered for adoption should first be offered to other PI’s with an IACUC approved protocol. If after ten (10) days no researchers indicate a desire to use the animal, the animal will be considered for the adoption program.
3) The NKU IACUC Veterinarian will conduct a physical exam of the animal, including blood testing if indicated, appropriate vaccinations or other tests deemed necessary to determine whether the animal is a suitable pet. Results of the exam and any test results should be furnished to the prospective new owner. If testing is necessary, the prospective owner may be liable for test expenses.
4) On the day the Animal Adoption Release is signed the animal should be removed from the NKU facility. Once the animal leaves the facility it is the possession of its new owner; the University will no longer be responsible for the animal, its care or any damage it may cause.

5.0 REFERENCES

6.0 FORMS OR ATTACHMENTS

7.0 DEFINITIONS

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