

Policy No:

Responsible Office: Office of Research
Compliance and Assurance

Last Review Date: reviewed by IACUC
October 2021

Next Required Review: semi-annually
during Program Review

Policy on Laboratory Animal Adoption

1. Purpose

This document establishes policy and provides procedures for adoption of "retired" research animals from the University of South Alabama.

2. Applicability

This policy applies to research animals meeting the eligibility criteria detailed in section 4.1.

3. Definitions

"3R's"- Replacement, refinement, reduction.

"4thR"- Retirement.

ACLAM- American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Adoption- The process of taking responsibility for an animal that the university released for retirement.

OLAW- Office of Laboratory animal Welfare.

Research Animals- Animals owned by the University used for biomedical research or teaching.

4. Policy Guidelines

ACLAM and OLAW are supportive of animal adoption. In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals, breeding of extra animals or ordering and receipt of animals unable to be used in the intended research, adoption into a private home shall be permitted by the

University of South Alabama IACUC. Adoption is done in consultation with the principal investigator and orchestrated the Department of Comparative Medicine. Adoption is at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian.

4.1 Eligibility

- Animals that have undergone a major surgical procedure will only be adopted out at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious microbes are not eligible for adoption.
- Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
- Animals may not be used for any commercial purpose, including but not limited to exhibiting.
- Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
- The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
- The animal must be spayed/neutered prior to adoption.
- The adopter is willing to accept responsibility for any future medical care/support as may be required.

4.2 Potential New Owner Eligibility

- University employees and students are eligible to adopt animals.
- Members of the public are eligible provided that they are referred by a university employee or student.
- Potential adopters will be screened by the veterinarian for their suitability, knowledge of the care of the type of animal, and qualifications.

5. Procedures

5.1 Application Process

- Forms
The potential adopter must complete the Questionnaire for Animal Adoption and the Animal Adoption Form. These forms are submitted to the IACUC/IBC Administrator or the Attending Veterinarian.
- Review of forms
The Attending Veterinarian and an additional IACUC Committee member will review the forms as submitted. The Attending Veterinarian will check references and meet with the potential adopter.
- Application approval
The Attending veterinarian and committee member will make a recommendation to the

IACUC at the next convened meeting. The animal cannot be adopted or leave the vivarium without IACUC approval.

- Required documentation for USDA species
Form 7020 (“Record of Disposition of Animals other than Dogs and Cats”) must be completed upon transfer of ownership to the adopter.

6. Enforcement

The IACUC has final authority to approve or disapprove adoption applications. The Attending Veterinarian has final authority to assess an animal’s eligibility. Once the research animal has been adopted and has been removed from the vivarium, the University cannot assume responsibility for the animal, even if the adopter must release the animal from his/her care (as stated in the Animal Adoption Form).

7. Related Documents

ACLAM Position Statement on the Adoption of Research Animals:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5710161/>

Homes for Animal Heroes:

<https://homesforanimalheroes.com/>

Attachments:

Questionnaire for Animal Adoption

Animal Adoption Form

Questionnaire for Animal Adoption

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check all that describe the prospective residence:

Single-family home

Apartment, duplex or other multi-family dwelling

I own my home

I rent my home (does landlord allow pets? _____)

Fenced yard

Urban location

Rural location

Zoning restrictions on animals in prospective residence area

How did you hear about this animal? _____

Where will the animal stay while you're at work? _____

Give information about how you plan to house your pet. You may attach a reference or picture of the enclosure if that is more appropriate.

Name the veterinarian who will provide health care for this animal once you have adopted it.

Animal to be adopted: Species: _____ Gender: _____ ID: _____

Date _____

Recommendation for FCR:

_____ Approve adoption _____ Disapprove adoption (give reasons below)

Signature of IACUC member

Signature of IACUC member

Animal Adoption Form

1. I accept the adoption of the animal described below from the University of South Alabama (USA). I understand that health problems may exist and that USA does not make any expressed or implied guarantees relative to the health or temperament of the animal.
2. I accept responsibility for the care of the animal described below and will make all reasonable attempts to care for this animal in a manner that is generally considered appropriate for a pet of this species.
3. The animal described below is to be a pet for me and my immediate family. I understand that it is not to be sold, given away, or otherwise released from my care unless extreme circumstances require the same. If the animal described below must be released from my care, I will make every attempt to secure a satisfactory home environment for it. I am aware that USA cannot accept the animal in the case that it must be released from my care.
4. I acknowledge and accept that:
 - Owning, possessing and caring for any lab animal carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries.
 - The animal may have been the subject of research.
 - Animal behavior is unpredictable and animals may injure people, other animals or property.
 - The animal may carry or be infected with organisms, bacteria or protozoa, which can cause problems in humans.
 - There is no way to write a complete list of all possible risks of owning and caring for any animal, including this animal.
5. Even though I have been informed of all this, I am willing to assume all risks of owning, possessing and caring for the animal, **including the risk of harm to any third parties.** Accordingly, I assume responsibility and agree to hold harmless USA and its trustees, officers, employees, and agents, regarding any claim, costs, liabilities or expenses of any kind that may arise from my adoption, possession or control of the animal described below.
6. I have read and understand the foregoing and voluntarily sign this Animal Adoption Form with full knowledge of its significance and intending to be bound by its terms. I have had an opportunity to consult with a lawyer or other advisor of my choice before signing.

Species: _____ **Breed or Type:** _____

Identifying Marks/Color: _____

Sex: _____ Age: _____ Weight: _____ Source of Animal (Protocol #): _____

Vaccination History of Animal: _____

Medical/Behavioral Information: _____

Person Adopting Animal

For dog and cat dispositions only -- the Animal Welfare Act requires the following additional information:

Method of transportation (circle) Car Truck Other (describe) _____

Name of owner of vehicle _____

Vehicle License Number/State _____

Drivers License (or State ID) Number _____

Adoption Form

Full Name (Print): _____

Phone No: _____ Date of Acquisition: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Principal Investigator Approval

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IACUC Chair Approval

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attending Veterinarian Approval

Signature: _____ Date: _____