



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

Policy on non-pharmaceutical grade drugs in research animals

The University of South Alabama complies with USDA¹ and OLAW² mandates governing the use of non-pharmaceutical grade compounds in research animals. OLAW has provided a summary of the conditions where non-pharmaceutical grade drugs may be used and this information appears below:

"OLAW and USDA consider that the use of non-pharmaceutical grade compounds should be based on:

- *scientific necessity;*
- *no availability of an acceptable veterinary or human pharmaceutical-grade compound; and*
- *specific review and approval by the IACUC.*

*Investigators and IACUCs should consider relevant animal welfare and scientific issues including safety, efficacy, and the inadvertent introduction of new variables. Cost savings alone do not adequately justify the use of non-pharmaceutical-grade compounds in animals. Although the potential animal welfare consequences of complications are less evident in non-survival studies, the scientific issues remain the same and the principles and need for professional judgment outlined above still apply."*³

¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Care, Policy 3-Veterinary Care, April 14, 1997.

² Lab Animal 32(9):33-36, 2003

³ <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#f4>