

ANIMAL CARE POLICY

Introduction

Claflin University promotes the humane care and use of animals in research, instruction, and demonstration. CU requires that faculty, staff and students, use care, wisdom and humaneness when deciding on the need for animals, the choice of species, and the number of animals, for research, instruction or demonstration purposes. CU incurs certain ethical and legal responsibilities for the humane care and use of those animals and has charged the Institutional Review Board (IRB) with the responsibility for ensuring adherence to appropriate University and Federal policies and regulations, and State and local laws.

This policy is applicable to all research, research training, experimentation, teaching, testing, exhibition or maintenance of animals and related activities, involving live, vertebrate animals supported by the Public Health Service (PHS) and non-PHS funds and conducted at this institution, or at another institution as a consequence of the sub-granting or subcontracting of a PHS-conducted or supported activity by this institution.

Definitions

The term "animal" means any live or dead dog, cat, monkey (nonhuman primate mammal), guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or such other warm-blooded animal, as the Secretary may determine is being used, or is intended for use, for research, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet; but such term excludes (1) birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research, [effective 2003] (2) horses not used for research purposes, and (3) horses not used for research purposes and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes.

Principles Regarding the Use of Animals

The University embraces the following set of principles regarding the use of animals:

- I. The transportation, care, and use of animals should be in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and other applicable Federal laws, guidelines and policies.
- II. Procedures involving animals should be designed and performed with due consideration of their relevance to human or animal health, the advancement of knowledge, or the good of society.

- III. The animals selected for a procedure should be of an appropriate species and quality and the minimum number required to obtain valid results. The use of statistical models and proper experimental design can help determine the numbers of subjects needed to produce required statistical power. Following such good scientific practice might actually increase the total number of animals used in a project. Methods such as mathematical models, computer simulation, and in vitro biological systems should be considered.
- IV. Proper use of animals, including the avoidance or minimalization of discomfort, distress, and pain when consistent with sound scientific practices, is imperative. Unless the contrary is established, investigators should consider that procedures that cause pain or distress in human beings may cause pain or distress in other animals.
- V. Procedures with animals that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia. Surgical or other painful procedures should not be performed on unanesthetized animals paralyzed by chemical agents.
- VI. Animals that would otherwise suffer severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved should be painlessly killed at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.
- VII. The living conditions of animals should be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. Normally, the housing, feeding, and care of all animals used for biomedical purposes must be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied. In any case, veterinary care shall be provided as indicated.
- VIII. Investigators and other personnel shall be appropriately qualified and experienced for conducting procedures on living animals. Adequate arrangements shall be made for their in-service training, including the proper and humane care and use of laboratory animals.
- IX. Where exceptions are required in relation to the provisions of these Principles, the decisions should not rest with the investigators directly concerned but should be made, with due regard to Principle II, by the Institutional Review Board for the Use and Care of Animals. Such exceptions should not be made solely for the purposes of teaching or demonstration.

Compliance

The Animal Care and Use Committee (see footnote) shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Executive Assistant for Government Relations and Research for monitoring compliance with this policy and with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations. The Committee is authorized to:

1. Review at least every six months the University's program for humane care and use of animals, using the Guide as a basis for evaluation;
2. Inspect at least every six months all of the University's animal facilities, including satellite facilities, using the Guide as a basis for evaluation;
3. Prepare reports of the Animal Care and Use Committee with all evaluations that were conducted and then submitting the reports to the Institutional Official;
4. Review concerns involving the care and use of animals at the University;
5. Make recommendations to the Institutional Official regarding any aspects of the University's animal care program, facilities, or personnel training;
6. Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of those sections of proposed research or instructional protocols related to the care and use of animals according to the following Public Health Service Policy requirements:
 - a. Procedures with animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals, consistent with solid research design.
 - b. Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals will be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, unless the procedure is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.
 - c. Animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly sacrificed at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.
 - d. The living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding, and non-medical care of the animals will be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied.
 - e. Medical care for animals will be available and provided as necessary by a qualified veterinarian.
 - f. Personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied will be appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.
 - g. Methods of euthanasia used will be consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia, unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.
7. Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the use of animals in ongoing activities; and
8. Suspend any activity involving animals if it determines that it is not conducted in accordance with the specifications set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. A suspension may occur only after review of the matter at a convened meeting of a quorum of the Animal Care and Use Committee, and with the suspension vote of a majority of the quorum present.

Report

The institution will require semi-annual reports to the Animal Care and Use Committee, from any college or other campus unit where animals, defined as covered species by this policy or designated in the future by the ACUC, are being housed, used, or held for future research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as pets. The information in these reports shall include the following:

- ❑ Number and species of animals,
- ❑ Location and description of the facilities where the animals are housed,
- ❑ Verification that these facilities are sanitary,
- ❑ Verification that the animals are fed, watered, and provided with proper ventilation,
- ❑ Verification that the animals are observed on a regular basis, and that they are healthy,
- ❑ Verification that the animals are provided adequate veterinary care,
- ❑ Verification that animals' pain and distress are minimized and that alternatives to painful procedures are considered, and
- ❑ Notification to the ACUC at any time if any of these conditions change, or if these animals are being housed, used and cared for in any way which is not in compliance with prevailing governmental regulations.

Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements

- A. This institution will maintain for at least three years
 1. A copy of this policy and modifications thereto,
 2. Minutes of ACUC meetings, including records of attendance, activities of the committee, and committee deliberations,
 3. Records of applications, protocols, and proposed significant changes in the care and use of animals and whether ACUC approval was given or withheld, and
 4. Records of semi-annual ACUC reports and recommendations as forwarded to the institutional official.
- B. This institution will maintain records that relate directly to applications, protocols, and proposed changes in ongoing activities reviewed and approved by the ACUC for the duration of the activity and for an additional three years after completion of the activity.
- C. All records shall be accessible for inspection and copying by authorized Federal or State representatives, or other required agencies, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner.
- D. The Sponsored Programs Office will be the central administrative recordkeeping office responsible for housing ACUC records according to Federal regulations.
- E. The ACUC, through the institutional official, will report in writing to appropriate Federal and/or State representatives as required by law and regulations.

Responsibilities of Faculty and Staff

Faculty, staff, and students who use live vertebrate animals for research, instruction, or demonstration purposes are required to conform to the principles enumerated above. They should also be familiar with administrative procedures adopted by the University to ensure compliance with these principles, and with pertinent laws and regulations. To ensure compliance, faculty, staff or students, utilizing live vertebrate animals are required to obtain the approval of the Institutional Review Board for the Use and Care of Animals, (synonymous with the Animal Care and Use Committee), prior to such utilization. They are further required to comply with such conditions as may be made by the Committee, pursuant to the principles and regulations enumerated above.

Footnote: In accordance with Federal guidelines, the Animal Care and Facilities Committee (ACFC) shall consist of not less than five members, and shall include: a member who holds a D.V.M. or equivalent degree, with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, who has direct or delegated program responsibility for activities involving animals at the University; a practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals; a member whose primary concerns are in a nonscientific area (for example, an ethicist, lawyer, or member of the clergy); and a member who is neither affiliated with the institution in any way other than as a member of the ACFC nor a member of the immediate family of a person who is affiliated with the University.

References:

Animal Welfare; 9 CFR Parts 1 and 2. *Federal Register*, Vol. 54, No. 168, August 31, 1989, P. 36112-36163.

Public Health Service (PHS). 1986. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (Available from: Office for Protection from Research Risks, 6100 Executive Blvd., MSC 7507, Rockville, MD 20892-7507. Tel: 301/496-7163; Fax: 301/402-2803).