

Guideline on Research Animal Adoptions

IACUC SOP/Guideline: none	Original Date Issued: 8/21/19	Current Date Issued: August 22, 2022
Approved by: Dave Casper, veterinarian; IACUC, 8/19/22		
Revision, review, and approval history: Originated in 2019. Reviewed 10/20/20 and 6/6/22		
Scope	IACUC and PIs	
Responsibility	IACUC Office, AV, vivarium/animal resource managers	

I. Purpose

This guidance provides investigators and other personnel concerning the adoption of animals owned by the University for the purpose of research or teaching.

II. Statement

An animal that participated in research or teaching may be adopted as a companion animal provided the animal is in good health, has an expectation for a normal quality of life, and has a suitable temperament. The individual adopting the animal (adopter) must demonstrate that they can provide a suitable home for the adoptee when it leaves the University. Once the animal has left the University, it cannot be returned.

The Attending Veterinarian (AV) is delegated authority by the Institutional Official to execute agreements regarding the release of liability pertaining to the adoption of animals.

III. Suitability

Some animals are not available for adoption because state and/or University policies or regulations prohibit private ownership or donation of some species. Examples include, but are not limited to, nonhuman primates, dogs, cats, transgenic animals, animals requiring a California Department of Fish and Wildlife permit (e.g., ferrets, gerbils, deer, zebrafish), and livestock with a deemed value.

The typical mechanism for adoption is initiated by the identification of an individual who wishes to adopt and assume permanent ownership of the animal. Under special circumstances, and with permission from the AV or designee, a temporary home may be found through a rescue, foster, county shelter, or SPCA group which will assume full responsibility for the care and welfare of that animal until a permanent home can be identified.

Donation: Under special circumstances, and with permission from the AV and IACUC, a permanent home at any American Zoological Association accredited zoo or aquarium is acceptable as a form of adoption.

IV. Procedure

1. Animals considered suitable for adoption must be identified on the IACUC protocol (Section I: Disposition of Animals) by including the following: "Animals will be adopted

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- out at the conclusion of the project per this guideline, IACUC Guideline for Research Animal Adoptions”.
2. Animals used for noninvasive experimental procedures that have not resulted in any physiologic or physical changes (e.g., pharmacokinetic study, behavior study) may be adopted if they are determined by the AV or designee to be in good health and with a suitable temperament. Prior to adoption, the AV or designee must be contacted in order for the assessment of the suitability of the animal for adoption as well as the person requesting to adopt the animal. The AV or designees will conduct this assessment within 10 business days (or as soon as practical) after notification from investigators.
 3. The adopter must be able to provide evidence of suitable housing, husbandry, companionship, and veterinary care to the animal. Persons requesting ownership assume full responsibility for the adopted animal. If the home is considered temporary, the person or organization must assume responsibility for the animal until a suitable permanent home is found.
 4. Individuals interested in adopting a former research or teaching animal must complete an “[Adoption Request/Questionnaire](#)” form stating their name, address, a description of housing available for the animal, and a description of their rationale for the request to adopt the animal. Adoption Request/Questionnaire forms are available from the AV, vivarium manager, and IACUC administrator. The individual or agency representative requesting to adopt the animal must sign a release of liability prior to adoption.
 5. The Adoption Request/Questionnaire form will be reviewed by the AV and/or vivarium manager. The AV or designee will verify that the potential adopter understands the adoption process and the responsibilities of adopting a research or teaching animal. The adoption may be approved provided all the criteria for adoption have been met.
 6. The adopter will receive a copy of the signed Adoption Request/Questionnaire form and this “Guideline on Research Animal Adoptions” on or before the day the animal is adopted and relocated to the new home.
 7. The PI and the IACUC office will maintain records of adoptions.