

POLICY REGARDING EXEMPT ANIMAL PROTOCOLS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on when animal activities may be exempt from IACUC oversight, veterinary authority, or facility inspections.

POLICY:

In all cases, the IACUC should be notified of any proposed animal activities, in writing, via the IACUC Animal Exemption Request Form. The IACUC is solely responsible for making any final determinations as to the exemption status of proposed animal activities at Liberty University.

FIELD STUDIES

Field studies that are observational in nature are exempted from completing an IACUC application and receiving IACUC approval, provided the proposed use does not involve any of the following:

- Capturing
- Trapping
- Chemical restraint
- Physical restraint
- Invasive procedures
- Any form of direct or indirect manipulation

STUDIES THAT DO NOT INVOLVE THE USE OF LIVE ANIMALS

Any research or teaching protocols that **do not** involve the care or use of live animals (i.e., only involve the use of cadavers, body parts, tissues, blood, etc.) may qualify for an exemption provided that the animal cadavers, body parts, tissues, blood, etc. are obtained from an IACUC approved source and are disposed of in accordance with state law and LU policies for disposal.

Approved Sources

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed dealers
- USDA approved/inspected slaughterhouses
- Animals from the State of Virginia presented for euthanasia and/or necropsy that would otherwise be disposed of as pathological waste
- Veterinary hospital patients that die or are euthanized that would otherwise be disposed of as pathological waste with the consent of the owner
- Local pound/shelter (i.e., derived from stray/unclaimed animals that are euthanized in accordance with USDA regulations, Virginia statutes, and municipal ordinances)
- An IACUC approved animal use protocol (i.e., derived from dead animals that would otherwise be disposed of as pathological waste). **Note:** An IACUC approved protocol is required if additional/special ante-mortem procedures are involved in the harvesting of tissue, blood, etc.)
- Archival tissues from tissue banks or museum collections
- Commercial grocery store and/or meat market/producer (i.e., fresh/frozen beef, pork, poultry, fish, etc.)

Other Sources

Investigators performing research, teaching, or testing that involves the use of animal cadavers, body parts, tissues, blood, etc. from a source not listed above must explicitly detail the following in the exemption request:

- PI name, office, department, phone number, email address;
- A brief description of what the animal cadavers, body parts, tissues, etc. will be used for;
- The source(s) of animal cadavers, body parts, tissues, blood, etc.;
- Where the animal cadavers, body parts, tissues, etc. will be stored and/or used;
- How the animal cadavers, body parts, tissues, blood, etc. will be disposed of

INVERTEBRATE ANIMALS

The Liberty University IACUC does not typically require approval for research or teaching involving the use of invertebrate animals. That said, exemption requests for such activities must be made through the IACUC. In all instances, animals shall be treated in an ethical manner, using sound, justifiable scientific practices.