

## **POLICY REGARDING THE HOLDING OF ANIMALS NOT ON ACTIVE RESEARCH PROTOCOLS**

### **PURPOSE:**

This document serves to outline the process for holding and maintaining research animals not currently assigned to a protocol on a global animal holding protocol.

### **POLICY:**

Use of the animal holding protocol is intended to be temporary, for a period of no longer than 60 days. During this time, researchers must take the necessary actions to gain approval for their animal use protocol in order to avoid forfeiture of the animals. Situations in which the use of the animal holding protocol may be warranted include:

1. Animals are ordered without an approved protocol in place.
2. Animals originating from inactive, suspended, or terminated protocols (including protocols where a PI is absent or missing).
3. Animals on a protocol under investigation by the IACUC for potential issues of noncompliance where the welfare of the animals is in question.
4. New LU investigators without an IACUC-approved protocol having animals that may require immediate housing at Liberty University.
5. Investigators that are leaving LU and do not have approval for transferring the animals to the new institution.

To request that animals be placed on the animal holding protocol, researchers must complete the Holding Protocol Request Form and submit it to [iacuc@liberty.edu](mailto:iacuc@liberty.edu) for approval.

### **RESTRICTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS**

- Any fees or costs associated with the use of the animal holding protocol will be charged to the PI or the responsible department.
  - No animal related costs may be charged to federal funding sources in the absence of an approved IACUC protocol.
- Animal cages must be clearly identified as being on the holding protocol (indicated by the inclusion of an “H” at the end of the existing number).
- Animals on the animal holding protocol are strictly off limits to any investigators.

### **RESEARCHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PI must work with the IACUC to ensure that any animal use protocols are active and current for any anticipated or ongoing animal use. It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure that any necessary approvals are obtained prior to protocol expiration.

### **IACUC RESPONSIBILITIES**

The IACUC provides a mechanism for animals to be rapidly transferred to a universal holding protocol in cases where it is deemed necessary in order to protect the health and welfare of the animals, or to prevent the waste of research animals.

### **UNIVERSITY VETERINARIAN**

The UV maintains the global holding protocol in such a manner as to receive and maintain animals that would otherwise be euthanized for lack of an existing active, IACUC-approved protocol.

### **TRANSFER FROM HOLDING PROTOCOL**

Animals may only be transferred from the animal holding protocol to a new or existing protocol upon approval from the University Veterinarian and the IACUC.

### **ANIMAL CARE & MANAGEMENT**

- No experimental procedures may be performed on animals while they are on the animal holding protocol. Any such use of animals on the holding protocol will be treated as a serious regulatory non-compliance.
- Breeding may be performed to maintain viability of specific lines occurring under this protocol. Expansion colony breeding is not permitted.
- Feeding, sanitation, and enrichment will be performed as appropriate for the species.
- No tissues may be utilized from euthanized animals without prior IACUC approval.
- Animals may not be euthanized for research purposes unless they are transferred to an approved IACUC protocol.
- The University Veterinarian must be made aware of any pre-existing conditions prior to receiving animals on the animal holding protocol. This may include:
  - Surgical implants
  - Zoonotic diseases
  - Dietary restrictions or needs
  - Past surgical history
  - Poor fecundity

### **HOLDING DUE TO PROTOCOL EXPIRATION**

If animals are placed onto the animal holding protocol due to the expiration of a protocol, they may remain for no more than one month from the date of expiration. If a renewal protocol has been submitted within the one month period, an additional month may be granted until approval is secured for a total of two months past the original expiration date.

### **HOLDING PROTOCOL EXPIRATION**

In the event animals on the holding protocol have been held beyond the two-month maximum, animals may be euthanized or transferred by the University Veterinarian to an approved protocol.

For studies in which wild animals have been captured and held on the animal holding protocol, it may be appropriate to release the animals in a manner consistent with federal and local laws and guidelines.

Extensions beyond the two-month maximum may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the University Veterinarian.