

**POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF LITERATURE SEARCHES FOR
ALTERNATIVES**

PURPOSE:

Federal regulations require those requesting IACUC approval for protocols involving USDA-covered species to perform a literature search for alternative methods. This document establishes the requirement for Liberty University IACUC protocols.

POLICY:

In applying for IACUC approval, the principal investigator must provide the committee a written narrative description of the methods and sources used to determine that alternatives are not available. The description and narrative of the literature search is described in the PI's answer to question 7 on the Liberty University Application for the Use of Animals in Research.

USDA-COVERED SPECIES DEFINITION

Any live or dead dog, cat, non-human primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm-blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research; 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.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The PI must consider alternatives to any procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals. The PI must provide a written narrative of the methods and sources used to determine the availability of alternatives, including any refinements, reductions, or replacements.
2. The literature search for alternatives must be performed and completed at the time of a new protocol application. This criteria includes any three-year renewals.
3. A minimum of two appropriate databases must be searched, and the search results must be provided along with the descriptive narrative in the protocol application.
4. Any literature that the PI is the author or co-author of shall not be used as justification for any animal use or procedure, unless no other literature exists, or information on the topic is limited.
5. The PI shall include the most recent literature available on the topic to ensure that best practices are maintained, and appropriate methodology is used.
6. The PI must keep a record of the search results and narrative for three years after completion of the study. This record must be produced if requested by inspectors.

For assistance with completing a literature search, refer to the guidelines on performing a literature search for alternatives or contact the IACUC.