

POLICY REGARDING ANIMAL ESCAPE AND NOTIFICATION

PURPOSE:

Liberty University is charged with specific responsibilities pertaining to the use of animals for teaching and research purposes, including:

- Adequate and humane housing, care, and use of animals as dictated by federal law and policy under the Animal Welfare Act, PHS Policy, and Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Oversight of animal care and use by a veterinarian with applicable laboratory animal training and experience
- An Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee that oversees the approval of animal research protocols to ensure the integrity of the university regarding animal research
- An environment that is acceptable for those working in animal research, such that physical and biological hazards are minimized or eliminated

The following policy outlines Liberty University's stance on minimizing the likelihood of animal escape and assures that appropriate measures are in place.

POLICY:

Any animal that escapes its designated holding facility and poses a risk to public safety, health, or personal property, or escapes into a residential or highway area, must be reported to the Liberty University Police Department and the Department Head from which the animal escaped. Further, the university veterinarian must be notified, who will then communicate with appropriate university officials to engage a community liaison. Failure to implement and uphold this policy will result in review by the IACUC, with the potential for withdrawal or suspension of the study protocol or animal use privileges.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

The Liberty University IACUC is mandated with inspecting animal housing facilities on a semi-annual basis. During this inspection, any deficiencies shall be reported to the Institutional Official and must subsequently be resolved. The IACUC may inspect more problematic areas on a more frequent basis if it is determined necessary for the safety and well-being of the personnel or animals. Any financial responsibility for ensuring adequate animal storage facilities and/or cages rests with the department that operates the facility. The IACUC cannot be denied access to a facility when assessing housing integrity though legitimate requests for postponement may be considered. Each department is responsible for training its personnel in appropriate animal handling and restraint techniques to ensure the likelihood of escape is minimized or eliminated. The IACUC may assist in developing prevention measures and post-escape contingency procedures.

RESPONSE TO AN ESCAPED ANIMAL

The Department: Each department shall have a designated individual with the responsibility of informing the LUPD and university veterinarian of any animal escape that meets the criteria established in this policy. This person will also be responsible for assisting LUPD in the recapture and/or return of the animal to its designated holding facility. The department must use any and all means necessary to quickly recapture and return the animal. Any corrective measures

that must be performed to secure the animal housing facility must be done so immediately to prevent further escape.

LUPD

Once notified of the escape of an animal covered by this policy, LUPD will determine, after consultation with appropriate personnel, the necessary course of action and any escalation to outside resources.

University Veterinarian

The University Veterinarian shall make recommendations for correcting the deficiencies that led to the animal's escape. The university veterinarian must also be available for public comment if deemed necessary by the university public relations officer.