



The University of Georgia

Policy on Reporting Deficiencies in Animal Care

Approved by UGA IACUC October 1997

The University of Georgia is committed to the humane care of the animals used in its research and instructional activities. It is a requirement of the [USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations](#) to have a written institutional policy that defines a method for reporting concerns related to animal care and use. Following is the UGA institutional policy. Although some administrative methods may vary among colleges or facilities, this policy serves as the basic guide in resolving problems that may be encountered.

Deficiencies in basic animal needs, extremes in environmental temperature, and animal illnesses should be promptly reported to the animal care supervisor. While the animal care supervisor should be informed about facility problems, the attending veterinarian or animal health technician should be promptly informed about sick or injured animals. Persons observing situations that need corrective action should take the initiative to locate the person responsible any time an animal's well being is involved. Do not be satisfied to leave a note and assume that someone will take care of it.

Painful or stressful research procedures must be reviewed and approved by the [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee \(IACUC\)](#) before the study is initiated. If you are concerned that an animal may be experiencing unnecessary or excessive pain during or following an experimental procedure, first discuss it with the principal investigator. If the response is not satisfactory or if the response is delayed, then the situation should be reported to the Attending Veterinarian, the Chairperson of the IACUC, or the Director of Animal Care and Use. Uncaring or cruel behavior toward animals cannot be tolerated in any research or teaching facilities. If these types of problems occur, the incident or situation should be reported immediately to the offender's supervisor, the Attending Veterinarian, or the Chairperson of the IACUC.

If you see an investigator or technician who is endangering or stressing an animal because of inexperience, offer to help if you are competent in the procedure. If you are also inexperienced, find someone else who can assist. Mention the incident to your supervisor.

Some animal care and research procedures about which you may be concerned may be approved or acceptable practices. If there really is a problem, someone may be working on a solution. However, play it safe for the benefit of the animals and ask anyway. You will not be reprimanded for reporting or expressing your concerns.

You, as an employee, should first express your concern and attempt to solve the problem at the most immediate administrative level. If there is no solution or explanation offered, then move to the next level of responsibility within your department or college.

If you are in doubt about how to proceed with your concerns, questions and problems can be taken to the Attending Veterinarian or the Chairperson of the IACUC and then to the Director of Animal Care and Use. It is most likely that the problem will be solved by and between persons most directly involved in the situation.

If an employee reports a situation to you as a supervisor, an Attending Veterinarian, or an administrator, acknowledge the report and promise to follow up with more details as soon as possible. After you complete your assessment of the problem, be sure to let the employee know the outcome.

The regional USDA veterinarian responsible for animal welfare, upon request, can investigate any concerns not appropriately addressed by the UGA Animal Care and Use Program.

Humane Care Confidential Contacts

IACUC@uga.edu

IACUC Executive Secretary: 706-542-4426

University Director of Animal Care and Use: 706-542-5938

Emergency Animal Care Contact: 706-542-7204

The identity of persons reporting concerns is held strictly confidential