



IACUC SOP:	Institutional Oversight of Research and Teaching Activities Using Privately Owned Animals
SOP #113.00	IACUC Approval: 10/10/2025

Purpose:

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for reviewing the use of live vertebrate animals used in research and teaching at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA). This policy defines which activities involving the use of privately-owned animals require IACUC oversight.

Scope:

This policy applies to the animal care and use program at Texas A&M San Antonio.

Background:

Privately-owned animals are those in which A&M-SA has no ownership, so final stewardship responsibilities reside with the animal's owner. However, ensuring the protection of animal subjects and the interest of A&M-SA and its faculty and staff requires consistent animal care management. Accordingly, under certain circumstances, some teaching and research use of privately-owned animals requires submission of an Animal Use Protocol (AUP), with approval by the IACUC prior to the start of the animal activity. IACUC approval may be requested as a condition of award from a funding agency (Lab Animal, Volume 39, No. 3, March 2010).

- Privately owned: animals owned by an entity (individual, organization or institution) other than Texas A&M University-San Antonio. If animals are owned by an organization or institution, informed consent must come from the decision-making authority of that organization or institute. For example, consent for use of an animal from a local animal sanctuary must come from the governing board of that sanctuary.
- Private facility: A facility that Texas A&M University-San Antonio does not own. This includes kennels, zoological parks, privately owned farms and animal sanctuaries.



- Animal Informed Consent Form: Agreement to allow animals owned by an individual, organization or institution other than Texas A&M University-San Antonio to participate in clinical trials, research or teaching based on sufficient information (e.g., regarding possible risks and benefits of the activity) and adequate opportunity to consider voluntary participation).

Rule:

Teaching and research activities involving privately owned animals are exempt from IACUC approval if ALL the following conditions are met:

1. The animals do not belong to Texas A&M University-San Antonio, but instead to a private individual, farm, organization or institution other than Texas A&M University-San Antonio.
2. No condition, disease or problem is induced in the animals. A condition may spontaneously occur in these animals and receive treatment, but it is not induced.
3. Any activity is incidental to normal husbandry or veterinary care in accordance with what a practicing veterinarian, pet owner, or farmer/rancher would perform on their clients' animals or on their own animals. No medically unnecessary diagnostics, sampling, testing, or procedures are conducted. No procedures are conducted solely for the purpose of student training.
4. IACUC approval is not required as a condition of award from an outside funding agency*. All Public Health Service supported research requires IACUC approval.

All four of the above conditions must apply for the activity to be exempt from IACUC approval.

* Certain publishers may require review of such studies by the IACUC to publish so this is something to consider prior to initiating the project. The IACUC will review these projects on request to satisfy the requirements of funding agencies or publishers.

Requirements for IACUC protocol submission for activities that do not meet all four conditions listed above:

Use of privately-owned animals at a private facility for A&M-SA research or teaching

1. An IACUC protocol must be submitted and approved for any research, testing or teaching activity which interacts directly with the animal, or which would alter the animal's environment in a manner which could impact animal health or welfare.



2. The PI must provide information regarding the facilities to be used and include either a signed letter from the facility indicating that the research can be conducted at the facility or an example of the informed consent form that will be used.
3. Unless specified in the protocol, the private facility's procedures for the care and welfare of animals will be followed.

Use of privately-owned animals at A&M-SA facilities/university property

1. An IACUC protocol must be submitted and approved for research, testing or teaching activities utilizing privately owned animals that are brought into A&M-SA facilities or property for the purposes of a research project or teaching opportunity for A&M-SA students. Animal client consent form is required for all research, testing, or teaching activities utilizing private animals.
2. The IACUC has the discretion to require an inspection or request information related to IACUC approved activities utilizing privately owned animals in all campus areas, including satellite locations.
3. Investigators are expected to report the number of privately owned animals used for an IACUC protocol. Privately owned animals used in research projects may be subject to additional oversight at the College level in addition to IACUC oversight.
4. For university club activities such as 4-H workshops, animal demonstrations, petting zoos or club recruitment in which owners and their animals attend activities and for which the owners maintain control of the animals, an IACUC protocol is not required. Responsible individuals must fill out the [Request for Demonstration/ Display form](#) submit it for clearance. This will enable the Veterinarian and Research Compliance office to assess the risk and provide approval before bringing any animal onto campus.
5. Activities using privately owned animals in studies which are considered part of clinical trials are exempt from IACUC oversight but still require an Animal Informed Consent Form.
6. Adverse events occurring on IACUC approved protocols must reported to the IACUC in a timely manner to iacuc@tamusa.edu using the [Adverse Event Unanticipated Outcome Report Form](#).

Ongoing IACUC oversight of activities involving privately owned animals on private property

1. The IACUC does not routinely inspect privately owned facilities where privately owned animal research or educational activities take place.



2. Memorandum(s) of Understanding indicating oversight responsibilities may be prepared for collaborations with other facilities. Contact Dr. Rani Muthukrishnan DRC for more details regarding this.
3. Investigators are expected to report the number of animals used for an IACUC protocol.
4. Adverse events occurring on IACUC approved protocols are to be reported to the IACUC in a timely manner to iacuc@tamusa.edu using the [Adverse Event Unanticipated Outcome Report Form](#).

Regulations

1. Animal Welfare Act (AWA, Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.)
2. Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR, 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A)
3. Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
4. National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011
5. Lab Animal, Volume 39, No. 3, March 2010

History:

Version 01 - Initial Approval: 8/11/2022
IO Approved: 8/24/2022
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