



AnSRS4U
Introduction to the
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

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TEXAS A&M
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Animal Research at Texas A&M University



- Activities with live vertebrate animals are covered by federal regulation (PHS Policy, USDA AWR) and institutional rule (TAMU 15.99.07.M1)
- Animal activities require an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) submitted through iRIS
- All animal activities must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to initiation.

Animal Research at Texas A&M University



“Vertebrate” = Animal with a backbone

“Activities” = Research, Teaching, Testing

“Use of Animals” includes, but is not limited to activities with:

- Live animals of any species where the activity is performed by TAMU personnel * (employees, students, volunteers), or is paid for with TAMU funds*, **or**
- Animals euthanized specifically for a TAMU PI’s study, **or**
- Tissues, cells, blood or other by-product harvested from vertebrate animals where the animal is manipulated prior to harvest/death specifically for the TAMU PI’s study (i.e.: custom tumor or antibody production).

*Animal activities performed at another institution with TAMU funds or personnel requires sign-off by TAMU IACUC

*AgriLife activities may be covered by the AACUC based on location of activity



Animal Research at Texas A&M University



“Use of Animals” excludes:

- The acquisition of dead vertebrate animals, tissues, cells, blood or other by-products from commercial vendors, clearing houses, the public or other PIs where no ante-mortem customization or activities occurred specific to the TAMU PIs study; i.e.:
 - excess blood or tissue collected by the animal owner’s veterinarian during routine clinical care,
 - tumor cells from a clearing house or another PI,
 - animal carcass from another PI where the animal was euthanized as scheduled for the original PIs study,
 - meat, bones, offal, blood, cells, preserved biological specimens or other animal by-products purchased from a commercial vendor, grocery store or Rosenthal,
 - legal harvest and donation of wildlife by a member of the public
- Observation of wildlife without additional manipulation of the animals or environment

When in doubt... check with the AWO staff to determine if IACUC review and approval is required!

SRS and the IACUC Sponsored Funding



Woohoo – looks like the grant application will be funded!

Now what? Ask...

- Does the grant include the use of animals?
 - If yes, then IACUC approval is needed, but...
- Is the activity occurring at another institution (subaward) or at this institution?

Sponsored Funding Subawards



If at another institution:

- Contact the AWO to initiate the external AUP process
- Ask the subawardee PI to provide a copy of their IACUC approval for the work covered by the subaward
- Grant to protocol congruency for NIH funds must be performed either by the sub-awardee or prime-awardee
- Maestro animal compliance will be updated by the AWO when the external AUP process is complete

Sponsored Funding Awardee Institution



If at this institution:

- Does the PI already have the grant **and** associated animal activities listed on a protocol?
 - If yes:
 - No additional action to take **unless** the AWO can't identify the appropriate AUP **or** the grant and AUP are not congruent (species – any fund source; species/activities - NIH funding)
 - We get a lot of false positives - please double check the AUP
 - If no:
 - Does the PI have a current approved protocol that fits the scope of work for this fund source?
 - If yes: Amend the AUP to add funding **AND** any missing procedures/studies to match the grant (**fastest option!**)
 - If no: Submit a new AUP
 - For both: AWO staff will update Maestro animal compliance when the AUP/Amendment is approved by the IACUC

Sponsored Funding Notes



- Not having IACUC approval by the JIT deadline for federal funding *generally* does **not** need mean you will lose the grant. Consult SRS if you have questions about JIT deadlines and restricted fund disbursement.
- It's not enough to have the activities listed on the AUP – the grant must be listed as well
- Be timely – don't wait until the last minute to submit your AUP or amendment
- Someone other than the PI can initiate new AUPs/amendments on behalf of the PI with some caveats
- It's ok to list more than one grant/fund source per AUP
- Animal charges are not allowed prior to the date of IACUC approval

Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)



May require IACUC approval for:

- Receipt of live animals
- Shipment of live animals
- Receipt of materials which will be administered to or implanted in live animals
- Receipt of materials harvested directly from vertebrate animals where the animal is manipulated prior to harvest/death specifically for the TAMU PI's study (e.g.: custom antibodies)

OLAW Interinstitutional Assurance (IIAs)



- Fairly rare
- Generally for SBIR/STTR grants
- The company collaborates with a TAMU PI to perform the animal activities under our PHS Assurance
- The IIA form is signed after IACUC approval is granted for the AUP/ amendment that includes the grant and associated animal activities
- The IIA form is routed for signature by the AWO

AWO Resources



animalcompliance@tamu.edu

- Assistance with iRIS or routine submissions
- Assistance with animal compliance as it relates to Maestro
- Assistance with closing AUPs (expiration or PI leaving institution)
- MTAs and IIAs
- General questions for the AWO or IACUC

pam-awo@tamu.edu

- New PI Orientation
- Assistance combining AUPs or with complex submissions
- Outreach and training

<https://rcb.tamu.edu/iris/help/iris-help>

- iRIS how-to manuals
- Must use TAMU NetID to access

Animal Welfare Office Staff



- AWO Director:
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Questions?

