



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Purpose

The Stephen F. Austin State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for the review of research and teaching activities that involve vertebrate animals.

This review process ensures that all university activities comply with government regulations set forth by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and by the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Persons Affected

University faculty, staff, visitors, students, non-SFASU affiliated community members, administrators, university president.

Policy

The IACUC will consist of a minimum of five (5) members, including: at least one faculty member representing an academic department utilizing vertebrate animals for research, testing, or training; one member from a department that does not utilize animals in research; one doctor of veterinary medicine; and one member of the community not associated with the university. The committee will meet at least twice per year and on an as-needed basis to review faculty research proposals that involve vertebrate animals and complete any additional tasks required by law.

The IACUC will establish and publish the processes that must be followed when vertebrate animals are to be used in research. The dean of research and graduate studies will serve as the institutional official (IO). The IACUC reports to the IO, who possesses administrative and operational authority to ensure compliance with relevant policies from OLAW and the AWA. The IACUC chair is appointed by the IO. The chair must have served a minimum of six months on the committee before being appointed. The IACUC chair should be a leader with the full support of the IO and enough stature and animal research expertise to perform their duties fairly and impartially.

No activities involving vertebrate animals can be carried out without approval from the IACUC. This includes activities that may be considered exempt activities and/or exempt animals.

This policy applies to all activities, teaching and research, that involve vertebrate animals that are: sponsored by the university; conducted by university faculty, staff, visitors, or students; and conducted using property and/or facilities owned by the university.



Failure to comply with applicable federal policies related to animal care and use may result in civil and/or criminal penalties and may also result in loss of federal funding to the university.

Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards

Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. 2131 et. seq.
9 C.F.R. § 2.31

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, *Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guidebook*

SFASU IACUC Policies and Procedures Manual

Responsible Executive

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Forms

Animals in Research Protocol; IACUC Application – long form

Animals in Research Protocol; IACUC Application – short form

Revision History

September 1, 2023 (original)
April 21, 2025

Educational Policy