



Policy on the Care and Use of Animals in Research and Teaching

The University of South Alabama recognizes the importance of animals in research and teaching and the responsibility of the University in assuring their proper care and treatment. The University is committed to minimizing pain and distress in all animals used in research and teaching. The following general principles form the animal care and use policy of the University of South Alabama:

1. All procedures in which animals are used must be for the purpose of advancing knowledge.
2. High standards for comfortable housing, sanitary conditions, food, water, and gentle handling are to be applied to all animals housed at the University.
3. All experiments, teaching laboratories, housing, and care of animals must be carried out in strict compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (revised, 2011), and University policies regarding the use of animals.
4. All studies involving the use of animals must receive prior review and approval of the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). All investigators using animals must comply with the decisions of the IACUC.
5. Alternatives to the use of living animals must be considered before animals are used.
6. All animals must be housed in vivarial facilities which have been approved by the Director of University Biological Resources. The IACUC must conduct semiannual inspections of all facilities and laboratories in which animals are housed or used.
7. Veterinary care is provided to all animals by the veterinary staff of the Department of Comparative Medicine. Ultimate authority regarding decisions on the use of anesthetics, analgesics, euthanasia, and treatment of sick animals resides with the attending veterinarian.
8. All animals must be acquired through the Department of Comparative Medicine. Vendors of animals purchased by the University must be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or approved by the Director of University Biological Resources.
9. If an experiment requires the death of an animal, euthanasia must be carried out using a method approved by the IACUC. The IACUC has adopted the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals (2013).
10. All surgical and other procedures expected to cause more than momentary pain must be accompanied by appropriate anesthetics or analgesics unless there are mitigating circumstances approved by the IACUC or the attending veterinarian. Paralyzing drugs such as succinyl choline and tubocurarine are not permitted unless accompanied by general anesthesia.
11. Principal investigators are responsible for making certain that everyone working within their project is experienced and competent to carry out the procedures involving animals. Training will be provided as necessary through the Office of the Director of University Biological Resources at the request of the Principal Investigator.
12. Any instances of perceived improper use or care of animals must be reported as indicated in the USA Animal Welfare Policy Statement.
13. Students who do not wish to participate in teaching laboratories and demonstrations involving the use of animals are not required to do so. It is the responsibility of the student wishing not to participate to obtain from his/her instructor an approved alternate assignment which may be substituted.
14. All faculty, staff, and students of the University of South Alabama are required to comply with the policy stated above. Anyone who does not comply with the policy of the University regarding the care and use of animals will not be permitted to use animals.