



**Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University  
Board of Trustees Policy**

<b>Board of Trustees Policy Number:</b> 2008-09	<b>Date of Adoption/Revision:</b> October 8, 2008
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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Animal Welfare and Research Integrity</b>
<b>Authority</b>	<b>ESPHS Policy, Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, AAALAC Accreditation Standards</b>
<b>Applicability</b>	<b>This policy governs Florida A&amp;M University (University) research, teaching and service activities involving animals when conducted by the University faculty, staff or students or when using University facilities or equipment.</b>

**I. Policy Statement and Commitment**

Florida A& M University Board of Trustees (FAMU or University) recognizes the importance of the use of animals in its research and teaching programs, and is committed to the highest standards for their humane use and care. The University, including its investigators and researchers, accepts responsibility for determining that research and teaching involving the use of animals fulfill this policy. In performing their duties University faculty, staff and students shall adhere to the following principles:

- Procedures involving animals shall be designed and performed with due consideration for their relevance to human or animal health, the advancement of knowledge, of the good of society; and
- The proper use of animals requires avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress, and pain.

This policy applies to all research and teaching irrespective of whether the research is funded from external or internal resources.

**II. Definitions**

- A. **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee** shall mean the committee established by the president or president’s designee in accordance with federal regulations to review University protocols, animal facilities and uses of animals.
- B. **Institutional Official** shall mean the Vice President for Research who shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the University’s animal care and use programs.

**III. Compliance with Federal and State Law**

As required by federal law, the president or president’s designee shall appoint an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure that activities covered under this policy meet federal requirements. The president or president’s designee is responsible for overseeing the IACUC. University employees may not approve an activity covered under this policy if it has not been approved by the IACUC. Activities approved by the IACUC nevertheless may be subject to further review and approval by University officials. All activities covered by this policy must comply with applicable federal and state regulations and guidelines, including but not limited to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Guide); the Public Health Service *Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (PHS Policy); the federal *Animal Welfare Act*; and the United States Department of Agriculture regulations. The president or president’s designee shall make a concerted effort to ensure that all facilities in which animals are housed will be accredited by the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animals (AAALAC).

**IV. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

- A. **Establishment of Committee** - The president or president's designee shall be responsible for establishing the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in accordance with current PHS policy requirements. Specifically, the policy requires that at least one (1) member shall be a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine who has direct or delegated program responsibility for activities involving animals at the University; at least one (1) practicing scientist experienced in research involving animals at the University; at least one (1) member whose primary vocation is in a nonscientific area; and one (1) member shall be unaffiliated with the University and not a member of the immediate family of a person who is affiliated with the University.
- B. **Functions of the Committee** - The IACUC shall oversee the provisions for the care and well-being of animals used for research and educational purposes at Florida A&M University. The IACUC shall assess the University's animal care program and assure that any proposed research is evaluated according to the Guide, the Animal Welfare Act, and PHS Policy. As necessary, the IACUC shall recommend to the president or president's designee changes and improvements regarding the University's animal program or facilities. In the conduct of its duties, the IACUC at a minimum shall:
1. Review, at least every six months, the University's program for humane care and use of animals, using the Guide as a basis for evaluation of laboratory animal programs;
  2. Inspect, at least every six months, the University's animal facilities to insure that facilities meet space and care requirements as specified in the Guide and that all animals used for research and teaching are being used as specified on approved animal use forms;
  3. Review protocols for the use of animals in research and teaching activities and approve, modify or reject these requests as appropriate;
  4. Prepare reports to the Institutional Official regarding the results of facility inspections, animal use in research and teaching, animal care personnel training and recommendations on improving the University's animal care program;
  5. Conduct continuing review of previously approved activities at least once a year;
  6. Review and investigate complaints of noncompliance;
  7. Promptly report to the Institutional Official and Vice President for Compliance any alleged serious or continuing noncompliance with federal laws or University policies and procedures; and any corrective actions taken in response to noncompliance;
  8. Make recommendations to the Institutional Official regarding any aspect of the University's animal program, facilities, or personnel training;
  9. Modify or suspend research activities that are inconsistent with University and federal regulations and policy on the humane care and use of animals.

In fulfilling its duties, the IACUC has the authority to gain access to all facilities used for the care and research of animals; and to obtain University records and other relevant information related to the use of animals.

**V. Administrative Procedures**

The IACUC, with responsible oversight by the president or president's designee, shall maintain appropriate administrative policies and procedures to implement this policy.