



# TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

## Operating Policy and Procedure

**HSC OP:** 73.03, **Animal Care and Use Program**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Health Sciences Center Operating Policy and Procedure (HSC OP) is to provide a framework for voluntary compliance with state and federal laws with regard to use of animals in research.

**REVIEW:** This HSC OP will be reviewed in June of each odd-numbered year by the Institutional Veterinarian and the IACUC Chair, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Research (SVPR) who serves as the Institutional Official.

### **POLICY/PROCEDURE:**

#### **1. Definitions.**

- a. **Animal Care and Use Program.** The Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) is defined as the policies, procedures, standards, organizational structure, staffing, facilities, funding and practices put into place by an institution to achieve the humane care and use of animals throughout the institution.

The ACUP comprises all activities conducted by and at an institution that have direct impact on the well-being of animals. This includes animal and veterinary care, policies and procedures, personnel and program management and oversight, occupational health and safety, the IACUC functions, and animal facility design and management.

- b. **Institutional Official (IO).** The individual who, as a member of senior administration, bears ultimate responsibility for the Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) and is responsible for resource planning and ensuring alignment of ACUP goals with the mission of the Institution. The IO signs the institution's Public Health Service Assurance statement, The IO shall report to the President. The Senior Vice President for Research (SVPR) currently serves as the IO.
- c. **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).** The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or IACUC is established by the IO for the President for assessment and oversight of TTUHSC's Animal Care and Use Program, components, and facilities. The Chair of the IACUC shall be designated by and report to the Institutional Official.
- d. **Institutional Attending Veterinarian (IVet).** The Institutional Attending Veterinarian is the individual responsible for the health and well-being of all animals used in the TTUHSC Animal Care and Use Program. The IVet directly oversees all aspects of animal care and use to ensure compliance with Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations as well as contemporary Standards of Veterinary Care. The IVet also provides input on new animal facility design, renovations of existing animal facilities, and planning for institutional needs.

#### **2. Compliance with laws and policies.**

- a. All activities must be in accordance with the Public Health Service (PHS) Assurance # D16-00032.
- b. Applicable local, state, and federal laws. All TTUHSC activities involving animals must be in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to the care and use of animals. These laws include, but are not limited to the Animal Welfare Act;





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