

# **Description of the Animal Care and Use Program for Grant Applications**

## **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**

The TTUHSC Animal Care and Use Program is centralized under the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research who also serves as Institutional Official for the program. Oversight for the program is vested in the Laboratory Animal Resources Center (LARC) and with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The Executive Director of LARC is the Institutional Veterinarian, board-certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Veterinarians, and reports to the Institutional Official. LARC is responsible for overseeing all animal care and husbandry functions for the University. All laboratory animal facilities are under the direct supervision and control of LARC. Generally, all animals are housed within the LARC vivaria unless taken to the laboratory for tissue harvest and/or survival bi methodologies.

The IACUC provides oversight for the total animal care and use program. The committee is appointed by the Executive Vice President for Research upon recommendation by the IACUC Chair. The IACUC provides reports to the Institutional Official as mandated by PHS Policy and regulations of the Animal Welfare Act. The Committee maintains a membership of 26-32 members, including veterinarians, scientists, non-scientists and community members. The IACUC reviews investigator-submitted protocols for all studies, classes, and experiments which require the use of any animal species, living or dead (exception: terrestrial invertebrates) consistent with Animal Welfare Act Standards (USDA Research Facility Registration #74-R-0050) and NIH-OLAW regulations (OLAW Assurance #A 3056-01)