Definitions

*Animal* means all vertebrate animals owned by Iowa State University.

*Livestock* means agricultural production animals and livestock or standard farm animals such as, but not limited to, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, and horses.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide ethical, practical, humane, and reasonable methods for disposing of animals no longer needed in an Iowa State University (ISU) research, teaching, or testing project. This policy addresses transfer, including transfer of ownership (adoption), sale, and loaning of animals. The procedures for humane euthanasia of animals are not covered under this policy.

Introduction

ISU is committed to the responsible, humane, and appropriate use of research and teaching animals; responsible and compassionate researchers and teachers utilize animals only when necessary. ISU recognizes the importance of refining, reducing, and replacing animals in research and teaching, as outlined by Russell and Burch, whenever possible. ISU adheres to all animal use laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines including those outlined in 9 CFR Subchapter A Parts 1–4; Public Health Service (PHS) policy; the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (ILAR) *Guide; Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching; Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) standards; and international, state, and local laws regarding the disposition of animals.*

Disposition Process

In many cases, the research design *requires* humane euthanasia at the end of the study (e.g., tissue collection in rodents). In other projects, the research design may lead to illness or disease conditions, and euthanasia is the most humane disposition. However, animals that finish a research or teaching project in good health may be deemed suitable for other projects; animals meeting those criteria may be transferred to another ISU project in an effort to reduce the number of animals used at ISU. In some cases, animals can be sold or adopted if such sale or adoption represents no threat to animal health and welfare, human health, or the integrity and prestige of ISU.

Transfer, Lease, and Loan of Animals to Other Institutions

Animals or animal tissues not required for ISU teaching or research may be transferred, leased, or loaned to another research institution. The intended transfer or lease of the animal must be documented in the ISU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)-approved protocol; proof of institutional IACUC approval from the institution receiving the animal is required prior to shipment of the animal. The investigator is responsible for contacting the Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) to make the arrangements for shipping animals (except livestock) to the receiving institution (see “Shipping Animals from ISU to Another Institution” on the LAR webpage). Investigators must provide any paperwork necessary (e.g., number of animals, date of travel, destination) for LAR to process the shipment. Health
certificates are required for transporting all livestock other than those going directly to slaughter. Animals that are loaned to another institution should be returned to ISU for final disposition; transferred animals may be disposed of at the receiving institution.

**Sale of Animals**
Livestock that are no longer needed for research or teaching can be commercially marketed or sold to another institution at market value, but they may not be sold directly to ISU employees. Other animals not required for ISU research or teaching projects may be sold to another research institution at cost (e.g., per diems to house the animal, cost of acquiring and conditioning an animal). When federal grants are involved, investigators should contact the Sponsored Programs Accounting Office for guidance on charging for the cost of the animal to ensure that the charges are not in violation of granting agency policies.

Purchase of animals by family of ISU faculty and staff, and sale of animals to business associates, is prohibited. Animals for which no commercial market exists can be sold following the procedures outlined in the University policy entitled “Animals–Sale of Livestock.”

The names of all purchasers, along with the sale price and any conditions of sale, should be maintained as a part of the unit’s business records.

**Adoption**
ISU supports the concept of animal adoption.

Individuals interested in adopting animals from shelters brought to ISU for the spay-and-neuter program must go to the respective shelter to privately adopt an animal. LAR will provide the shelter name and information so that the interested individual may directly contact the shelter.

ISU animals may be adopted by ISU faculty, staff, or students when justified by the IACUC for scientific reasons necessary to achieve the goals of the research (e.g., the need for long-term follow-up). If a project is funded by a federal agency, the need for long-term follow-up must be specified in the federal grant application. Investigators must maintain an active IACUC protocol for the entire time that they wish to conduct follow-up research exams of an adopted animal.

Research animals that have no monetary value and are naïve, control animals or subjects in relatively benign studies may be adopted out to individuals as specified by the ISU Adoption Program. For details of this program see the ISU IACUC Adoption Program Standard Operating Procedure.

**Contacts**
For more information or questions regarding the disposition of research and teaching animals, contact the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, 515-294-6344, or the Office for Responsible Research, 515-294-1516.

**References**
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, Office of Extramural Research, National Institute of Health, question 11: “Can IACUCs authorize the adoption of research animals as pets after the animals are no longer needed for study?”

• PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
• 9 CFR Subchapter A Parts 1–4
• “Animals–Sale of Livestock,” University Policy Library