Policy Definitions

**Guidance**—Advice or information aimed to help resolve problems or carry out an action; something that provides direction or advice as to a decision or course of action.

**Must**—In general, the verb “must” is used for broad programmatic or basic aspects that are considered imperative.

**Policy**—A written statement that communicates the University’s intent, broad principles, strategies, objectives, philosophic guide and/or standards that define the requirements and responsibility for action. All policies proposed or recommended by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Attending Veterinarian, Laboratory Animal Resource Director, and Office for Responsible Research receive final approval from the Institutional Official before implementation. When a proposed policy will be a university-wide policy, the recommended policy is submitted for review following the University guidelines established for the University Policy Library.

**Principles**—Principles for the care and use of animals are the foundation of how research with animals should be conducted at ISU. All ISU investigators, key personnel, faculty, and staff should ensure their plans for conducting research are in accordance with those guiding principles; the IACUC reviews the research to ensure adherence to those principles.

**Should**—The verb “should” is used as a strong recommendation for achieving a goal, and deviations or alternative strategies must be justified and approved by the IACUC.

**Standard operating procedures**—A standard operating procedure is a set of practical, specific instructions, having the force of a directive, and covering those features of operations that lend themselves to a definite or standardized procedure without loss of effectiveness.

**Principles for Care and Use of Animals**

Iowa State University endorses the principles outlined in the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training. The National Research Council has summarized those principles in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (page 2) as encouraging the following:

- “Design and performance of procedures on the basis of relevance to human or animal health, advancement of knowledge, or the good of society.
- Use of appropriate species, quality, and number of animals.
- Avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress, and pain in concert with sound science.
- Use of appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia.
- Establishment of experimental end points.
- Provision of appropriate animal husbandry directed and performed by qualified persons.
- Conduct of experimentation on living animals only by or under the close supervision of qualified and experienced persons.”