



Johns Hopkins University

Animal Care and Use Committee

Investigating and Responding to Animal Welfare Concerns or Protocol Noncompliance

Purpose:

To establish the process for the investigation, resolution and reporting (if required) of animal welfare concerns or protocol noncompliance

Process:

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will evaluate concerns, raised by anyone, regarding the care and use of animals at Johns Hopkins University. The IACUC is authorized by University policy and applicable federal laws to investigate and respond to animal welfare concerns or noncompliance, including suspending any animal activity, and suspending access to the animal facilities of personnel.

Concerns regarding the welfare of animals or noncompliance with approved protocols, University policies, local, state or federal regulations will be referred to the IACUC Chair, and to the Attending Veterinarian when they involve animal health. These concerns will be investigated as needed by the ACUC compliance staff and/or veterinary staff, as appropriate. All compliance concerns are logged and the IACUC Chair will review information gathered by the ACUC compliance staff and veterinarians. All confirmed welfare or noncompliance concerns are reported to the IACUC.

When a matter is determined to constitute a compliance or welfare concern, an IACUC Compliance Subcommittee consisting of at least three IACUC voting members with appropriate expertise, and additional personnel as the Chair deems necessary, will be convened to evaluate the information collected and to determine a corrective action plan. Other IACUC committee members may attend the Compliance Subcommittee if available. The Compliance Subcommittee will review the matter, including any proposed corrective actions provided by the Principal Investigator (PI) or designee. The Compliance Subcommittee will develop a suggested corrective action plan for any finding of noncompliance or animal welfare concern. That plan will be presented and, along with any discussion be recorded in the minutes, at the next convened meeting of the IACUC. The IACUC may, but is not limited to:

1. Determine that corrective actions to be taken by the PI, including any additional corrective actions proposed by the IACUC Compliance Subcommittee, are sufficient;
2. Impose conditions and/or restrictions on the PI and their laboratory regarding the use of animals, including additional training or changes in personnel;
3. Require additional corrective actions such as submission of protocol amendments; enhanced

monitoring of research; retraining or mentoring of the research team

4. Require any other change in practice that will address the noncompliance or animal welfare concerns;

5. Suspend the protocol or any portion of the protocol

Notwithstanding the above, the ACUC Chair or the Attending Veterinarian may suspend access of a researcher to the animal facility pending investigation of the concerns by the ACUC compliance staff .

Serious or continuing deviations from PHS policy and protocol suspensions related to PHS-funded activities are reported through the Institutional Official to OLAW along with a corrective action plan; and protocol suspensions involving animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act are reported to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Reports are simultaneously reported to the private accrediting agency AAALAC International along with the corrective action plan. In accordance with OLAW guidance and federal regulations, costs associated with work that was not part of an approved protocol, or costs associated with animal care during the pendency of a protocol suspension may not be charged to federal awards.