



# Johns Hopkins University

## Animal Care and Use Committee

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### **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

The Animal Care and Use Committee will evaluate concerns, raised by anyone, regarding the care and use of animals at Johns Hopkins University. The Animal Care and Use Committee 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 mistreatment of animals or noncompliance with approved protocols, University policies, local, state or federal regulations will be referred to the Attending Veterinarian and the ACUC Chair, and will be investigated as needed by the ACUC compliance staff or veterinary staff, as appropriate. All compliance concerns are logged and the ACUC Chair will review information gathered by the ACUC compliance staff. All complaints are reported to the ACUC.

Where a matter is determined to constitute a compliance or welfare concern, an ACUC Compliance Subcommittee consisting of at least three ACUC voting members with appropriate expertise will be convened to evaluate the information collected and to determine a corrective action plan. Other available ACUC committee members may attend the Compliance Subcommittee if available. The Compliance Subcommittee will review the matter, including any proposed corrective actions provided by an investigator. The Compliance Subcommittee will develop a corrective action plan for any finding of noncompliance or animal welfare concern and that plan will be presented and voted upon at the next convened meeting of the ACUC. The ACUC may:

1. Determine that corrective actions taken by the PI, including any additional corrective actions proposed by the ACUC Compliance Subcommittee are sufficient;
2. Impose conditions and/or restrictions on the PI and his/her 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 Attending Veterinarian or the ACUC Chair may suspend access of an investigator to the animal facility pending investigation by the ACUC of concerns.

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, Eastern Regional Office. 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.