

PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF ANIMALS (Rev. 8/2/07)

The use of animals is essential to teaching programs and biomedical research in a College of Veterinary Medicine. Many significant benefits to the health and welfare of both animals and humans have resulted from animal use in research, and are a matter of historical record. Instruction of veterinary students also would be impossible without the use of animal models.

There are both moral and legal obligations to ensure the humane care and responsible use of animals in research and teaching. This is especially important within a College of Veterinary Medicine because the public looks to, supports, and expects the veterinary medical profession to protect the health and welfare of animals. Therefore, each staff member, student, faculty member, or research investigator of the College of Veterinary Medicine is directly responsible to promote and protect animal welfare within the instructional and research program of the College. This responsibility should be conveyed by example and extends to the education of the future members of our profession.

The NCSU Animal Care and Use Policy <http://www.ncsu.edu/iacuc/lab1.html> articulates the university's commitment to the humane treatment of animals used in research and teaching. A vital component of this policy is the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) <http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/compliance/iacuc/>, which is responsible for the review and approval of research and teaching animal-use activities, evaluation of animal care and use programs, and inspection of animal housing facilities at NCSU. The IACUC also is responsible for investigating any animal welfare concerns brought by a member of the NCSU community. The IACUC can be contacted through the Coordinator at 515-7507 or iacuc@ncsu.edu.

At the College of Veterinary Medicine, research and teaching animal use activities are the responsibility of the Laboratory Animal Resources unit: <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/lar/>. CVM faculty, staff and students are encouraged to contact LAR for assistance with any aspect of animal care and use, including regulatory, ethical, scientific and methodological aspects of starting a research project that involves animals, as well as career opportunities in the field of laboratory animal medicine and science.