



I. Purpose

This Policy will serve as a basis for the IACUC's (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) evaluation for approval of protocols involving the RUSVM (Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine) colony dogs used in both teaching and research. This policy is in conjunction with the IACUC Re-use of Animals Guideline (Pol.009).

II. Outline of RUSVM dog use & purpose

RUSVM can permit the use of RUSVM colony dogs for research providing the impact on the dogs is minimal and data acquisition does not interfere with the primary function of the colony, which is to contribute to the teaching and learning experience of students.

The approximately thirty RUSVM colony dogs are assigned to weekly teaching laboratories on a staggered basis to ensure that they are allotted appropriate rest time in between activities. The required duration of rest is relative to the categories of animal use (CAU) within the laboratory that they are participating in. The Animal Resources (AR) Department at RUSVM is responsible for overseeing the management of the RUSVM dog colony under supervision of the Attending Veterinarian (AV). Any proposal for the introduction of these dogs to research should be discussed with AR and AV prior to seeking IACUC approval. The Policy Guidelines for Re-use, CAU and Rest Periods for RUSVM Teaching Animals) is available for review on the [RUSVM IACUC Animal Welfare Website](#).

III. Scope/Responsibility

1. Various teaching and research activities can impact the suitability of animals for other uses with respect to characteristics such as: behavioral responses to handling and restraint, physiological responses to anesthetic or other agents, and rates of wound healing.
2. The suitability of animals for concurrent or subsequent use in teaching and research will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the IACUC and AV. Documentation of having discussed the use with the AR Department is required within the IACUC Primary Application Form prior to consideration of this research proposal.
3. Concurrent or subsequent use will generally not be IACUC approved unless that use allows for placement of the dogs within category C of the USDA pain and distress categories and adheres to the Re-use of Animals Guidelines in section VII of the policy. Factors that will be considered include the nature, severity and duration of expected subsequent adverse events (AE's) of the study. The potential for unexpected AE's should also be carefully considered and any theoretical consequence of the conducted research should be integrated into the submitted IACUC proposal.
4. Research that is mutually beneficial to the RUSVM colony dogs and the research team will be given priority. Protocols should be REFINED to ensure that duplicitous usage of the dogs is not occurring. For



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example, if procurement of blood samples are required for research, the timing of sample acquisition should be coordinated with bi-annual husbandry activities in order to REDUCE the impact on the dog.

5. A preparatory checklist is available to facilitate consideration of common questions that researchers may have prior to submitting a proposal to IACUC for research involving the kennel dogs. The document titled *Use of RUSVM Dogs for Research and Teaching – Preparatory Checklist* (Appendix 1) is below.

III. Review

This policy is reviewed and amended annually.

Policy Approval:

Jennifer K Ketzis

11 Aug 23

Signed

Date

Dr. Jennifer Ketzis, IACUC Chair

Effective Date	Significant Changes	Version
01/10/2019	New Document	1
09/23/2020	Annual Review, Add Appendix 1	2
8/11/2023	Annual Review, hyperlink updates	3



Appendix 1: Use of RUSVM Dogs for Research and Teaching – Preparatory Checklist

Prior to submitting a protocol to IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) for research involving the RUSVM (Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine) colony dogs, the following should be considered and addressed in the protocol.

1. Has the study been discussed with Animal Resources and the Attending Veterinarian to ensure animals are available for the study and required resting periods are observed?
2. What is the rationale for using RUSVM colony dogs versus client owned dogs?
3. Will the research benefit the dogs or have the ability to be extrapolated to kennels or shelters?
4. Can the work be performed when dogs are under quarantine/acclimation? That is, can all research be completed within the 14 day period prior to introduction into the colony? If no:
 - a. Can the research be performed around the current teaching protocol rest periods?
 - b. Can groups be split up or do all cohorts need to be used at the same time?
 - c. Will attending labs or will the procedures done during labs affect your research?
5. Have the researchers familiarized themselves with the teaching uses of the dogs? Do they know what samples might be available as a result of regular care of the dogs or in the teaching use of the dogs?
6. Can any of the data required (PE, fecal samples, blood samples, etc.) be obtained during normal teaching use of the dogs or during routine husbandry? If not, why? If yes, have the instructors or Kennel Veterinarian been contacted to discuss incorporating the research?
7. What are the risks of Adverse Events (AE) and the impact of these risks? That is, are the most likely AEs to have no impact on the dogs use in teaching or could the potential AEs result in the dogs being removed from the teaching population or weekly labs?
8. Will you need the kennel staff to assist with data collection? If yes, please discuss with Manager Animal Resources for staff availability before adding to list of authorized personnel on the IACUC application form.
9. General note: All research specific supplies (needles, syringes, sedative, etc.) must be provided by the researchers.