



Activities that Require IACUC Approval

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval is required before conducting research or teaching activities involving animals if ANY of the below 5 categories apply.

Activities are to be conducted:

1. with animals owned or leased by Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM);
2. with free-living vertebrate wildlife if studies involve more than unobtrusive observation of animals in their natural habitats. Examples include baiting, trapping, invasive studies and studies with the potential to cause harm or materially alter the behavior of the animals;
3. by RUSVM employees in their official roles as faculty or staff members;
4. on property owned, leased, or managed by RUSVM; OR
5. using internal or external funds administered through RUSVM.

Note that for privately owned animals, IACUC approval is required for teaching or research inclusive of clinical trials, if points 3, 4 or 5 apply. See section “Activities that Do Not Require IACUC Approval” for when IACUC is not required in regards to veterinary care.

Situations that Require IACUC Oversight

- Research, training, experimentation, biological testing, and related activities involving live vertebrate animals conducted at RUSVM, or another institution as a RUSVM supported activity.
- Live animal demonstrations or exhibits conducted with animals owned by RUSVM, or on property owned, leased, or managed by RUSVM.
- Image/video capture of live vertebrate animals for the explicit purpose of teaching or research.
- A sample from an animal is collected specifically for teaching or research purposes; or
- Drug selection, timing, dose and/or dosage is for teaching or research.

Activities that Do Not Require IACUC Approval

- Any activity that is incidental to the normal husbandry or veterinary care in accordance with what a practicing veterinarian, pet owner, or farmer/rancher would perform on their client’s animals or on their own animal. No medically unnecessary diagnostics, sampling, testing, or procedures are conducted. No procedures are conducted solely for the purpose of student training.
- No condition, disease or problem is induced in the animals. A condition may spontaneously occur in these animals and receive treatment, but it is not induced.
- Research and teaching activities using cadavers or tissues from dead animals UNLESS the cadavers or tissues are to be acquired from animals specifically purchased or euthanized for the activity, or the recipient will influence the timing or method of euthanasia and/or the



timing or method of tissue/sample collection.

- IACUC approval is NOT required for use of animal-derived data when the investigator or his/her personnel did not intentionally participate in producing the data, either via activities or funding. For example, previously collected data from clinical cases may be used in retrospective studies without IACUC approval.

Activities that MAY Require IACUC Approval (contact the IACUC office prior to conducting these activities)

- IACUC approval is not needed for the use of animal-derived data such as unused or discarded clinical samples, slaughterhouse tissues when the animal was not slaughtered specifically for the activity, and/or archival tissues from tissue banks, museum collections, or similar sources. However, the PI must submit a [Notification for Collection of Samples and Tissues form](#) to the IACUC that will be reviewed by the IACUC office. The IACUC chair will then issue an acknowledgment letter to the PI.
- Clinical samples can be a grey area. For example, if typically 0.5 mL of blood is collected for a clinical test and extra is collected for research, then an IACUC protocol and approval is required.
- Some journals have requirements for ethical reviews for animal use that are not required under the USDA Animal Welfare Act and hence do not normally fall under the remit of IACUC. In these cases, protocols can be submitted to IACUC for review and/or for a letter from IACUC confirming that welfare is not an issue in the proposed work.
- Student participation in educational or research activities at non-RUSVM sites if those activities involve animals owned by RUSVM or RUSVM personnel influence (ie, conduct or direct) animal use.
- RUSVM club off-campus activities with live vertebrate animals.

Collaborative Activities with another Institution or Organization

Any research or teaching protocols conducted in collaboration with another institution or organization, including commercial entities, must be approved by an IACUC or equivalent oversight body.

When a research or teaching protocol has been reviewed and approved by another institution's oversight body an additional approval from the RUSVM IACUC is normally not required. However, the Principal Investigator (PI) must submit the following to the RUSVM IACUC for documentation and acknowledgement of Animal Use Activities before any Animal Use Activities under the protocol can commence:

1. protocol approved by other institution's oversight body;
2. the oversight body's approval letter; and
3. where applicable, either



- a. additional local/national approvals or permits or
- b. assurance statement from the pi that no other approvals or permits are necessary for the protocol.

After review of the submitted documents, the RUSVM IACUC will issue an acknowledgement letter for the protocol stating it will assent to the other institution’s oversight body’s approval.

Examples of situations in which the RUSVM IACUC may assent to another Institution’s Oversight Body approval include:

- sub-contracts using funds disbursed through RUSVM, where animal use is conducted at the collaborating institution
- custom (i.e., not “off the shelf”) antibody production by a commercial company
- custom animal testing of a compound supplied by a RUSVM employee

Activities not within the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis

Where applicable, i.e. protocols with Animal Use activities outside of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the PI must ensure that any required additional approvals or permits from local and/or national authorities/regulatory bodies have been obtained and is noted on the IACUC application form.

NOTE: For any inquiries regarding animal use activities, IACUC protocol submission, protocol review process or other related matters, please contact the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine IACUC Administration Office.

This Policy is subject to annual review.

Policy Approval:

9 Oct 2023

Signed

Date