



I. Purpose

In recognition of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM)'s commitment to observing USA federal policies and regulations such as the Animal Welfare Act and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International Standards for the humane care and use of animals. This policy describes the authority of the Attending Veterinarian (AV).

II. Scope

This policy covers all animals used in the animal care and use program of RUSVM and is applicable to all persons responsible for conducting activities involving live vertebrate animals at or under the auspices of RUSVM.

III. Policy

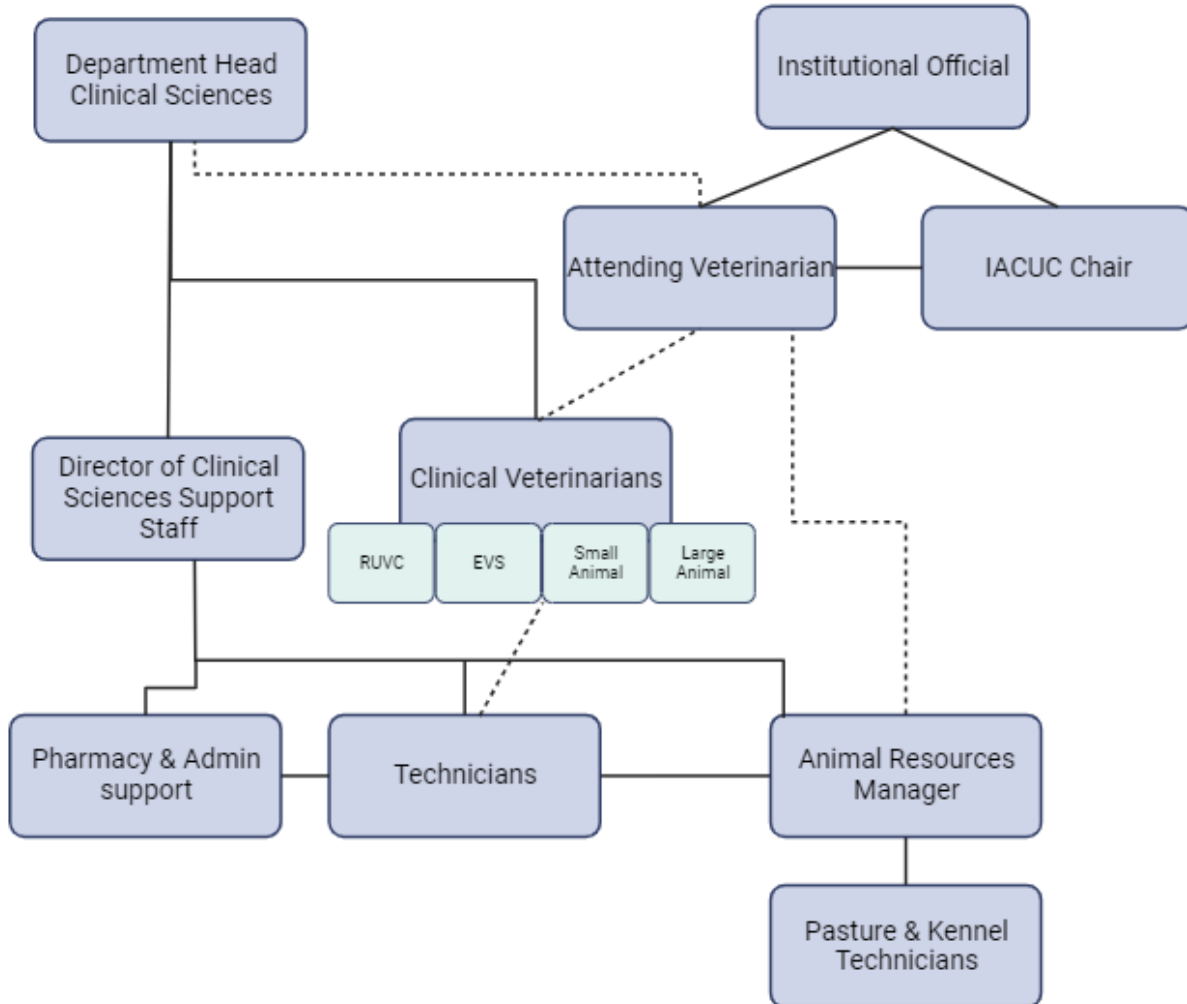
- The AV is empowered with full authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use that impact animal welfare and safety. These aspects include;
 - Animal housing
 - Husbandry
 - Nutrition
 - Sanitation practices
 - Biosecurity
 - Behavioral management
- The AV has the final authority to treat or humanely euthanize animals at their discretion. Ideally, this is done after consultation with the Principal Investigator (PI) or responsible members of the protocol team. However, in emergency situations with animal welfare or safety considerations, the AV is not required to seek approval from the PI, the PI's supervisor, or the RUSVM IACUC to treat or euthanize animals if such actions are judged prudent by the AV. The AV will promptly notify the PI or responsible members of the protocol team and the RUSVM IACUC of the animal treatment or euthanasia.
- The AV has full authority to immediately suspend animal activities that are inconsistent with adequate animal care or for protocol deviations that have a negative impact on the animal. This includes suspension of access to animals by personnel. In cases where an activity or access is suspended, the AV or their designee promptly reports the incident to the RUSVM IACUC for further review.
- The AV or designee authorized by the AV has unrestricted access to all areas where animals are used or housed, including any satellite facilities not directly managed by the Animal Resources team.
- The duties of the AV may be shared or delegated by the AV to other veterinarians, but ensuring program compliance with applicable regulations and institutional policy remains the responsibility of the AV.



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- When the AV delegates duties to other veterinarians, those veterinarians in the capacity of the delegated duties, report to the AV.

IV. Reporting Structure



III. Review

This policy is reviewed and amended annually.



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Policy Approval:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer K Ketzis".

9 October 2023

Dr. Jennifer Ketzis
IACUC Chair

Date