



**Title:** Animal Product Use

**Policy Number:** 010

**Policy Intent:** The purpose of this policy is to describe the use of outside source vertebrate animal tissues, cells, fluids and biologically-related materials at TTU.

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### 1. Introduction

- A. It is important to recognize that tissue sharing and the use of tissues from slaughterhouses is an effective implementation of Russell and Burch's "3Rs" (reduction, refinement, replacement). The use of tissue sharing by multiple PI's or obtainment of tissue from animals euthanized for human consumption helps to reduce and replace the overall number of animals used in the course of research. This approach is encouraged where it is scientifically and practically appropriate.
- B. This policy shall apply to all animals and vertebrate animal-derived tissues and cells to be used, stored, or maintained for teaching or research purposes. The intent of this policy to provide ethical, practical, humane, and reasonable methods for the sharing or use of animal tissues/carcasses prior to their disposal.

### 2. Background

- A. While both the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and PHS Policy require the IACUC to review and approve the use of live vertebrate animals in teaching, research and testing, federal regulations do not apply to dead animals in the research facility setting. Confusion has arisen as the AWA defines an 'animal' as any live or dead warm-blooded animal intended for use in research, teaching, testing, or experimentation. However, the definition of a 'research facility' is one that 'uses or intends to use live animals.' In addition, PHS policy would not normally extend to anything other than a live animal with the exception of the intent for the ultimate use of any live animal.
- B. It should be noted that both OLAW and USDA/Animal Care have gone on record that a proposal involving animals to be killed for the purposes of using their tissues, or one that involves project-specific manipulation prior to euthanasia is not exempt from protocol review. Therefore, if an animal is acquired and euthanized specifically for tissue collection, a full animal use protocol must be submitted and approved by the TTU IACUC.

### 3. Definition

- A. For the purposes of this policy "tissue" will pertain to any part of a vertebrate animal, including cells, tissue, blood or other bodily fluids, organ and carcass, that contributes to the individual's or species' homeostasis when the animal is alive. This policy is NOT intended for COMMERCIALY available or purchased materials.



#### **4. Policy**

- A. Although not required by federal regulations to review and approve the use of animal tissues, Texas Tech University's IACUC has determined that it is in the best interest of the University to require review and approval of all activities involving both live and dead vertebrate animals. This is done not only for the purposes of compliance with guidelines and regulations, but also for reasons of personnel safety, liability and public relations.
- B. The IACUC encourages the use of shared tissues and slaughterhouse materials when it is scientifically appropriate. An individual may obtain tissues from a slaughterhouse or from an animal that has been euthanized for the purposes specified in an approved IACUC protocol. In the latter case, the individual may obtain parts or the whole animal and there is no requirement for them to have IACUC approval for the use of the dead animal or to be listed on the approved IACUC protocol for which the animal was euthanized. However, the individual should enroll in the Occupational Health program to determine whether the individual is potentially at risk or needs to take special precautions when handling the tissue.
- C. In brief, in order to be exempt from IACUC Animal Use Protocol review and approval:
  - 1) The tissue use must not result in a need for an increase in the number of animals to be used in any approved IACUC protocol.
  - 2) Live animals must not be subjected to any changes in procedures, or additional procedures, beyond those approved in the IACUC protocol to which they are assigned. That is, unapproved procedures cannot be performed in order to make the tissues suitable for another researcher.
  - 3) Live animals cannot be transferred to another researcher who has no IACUC approval for their use. This applies even when the only procedures planned are euthanasia and tissue harvest. In other words, euthanasia and tissue harvest require IACUC approval.
  - 4) A researcher with an approved IACUC protocol cannot euthanize animals for the sole purpose of providing tissues to another researcher.
  - 5) Tissues that are donated to, or maintained in University repositories, and shared with other researchers for scientific purposes, shall be exempt from this policy.

#### **5. Procedures**

- A. To provide/receive any animal tissue from a non-commercial source:
  - 1) The recipient must complete an Animal Product Protocol Form.
  - 2) The Form must be submitted to and approved by the IACUC prior to tissue purchase or receipt.
  - 3) If the tissue to be purchased/received will contain radioactive, hazardous, infectious, or recombinant DNA material, the Animal Product Protocol Form must also receive approval from the Institutional Biosafety Committee or Institutional Radiation Laser Safety Committee prior to tissue purchase or receipt.

#### **6. References**

- Federal Register, Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, 9 CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3. Animal Welfare; Proposed Rules. pp. 10821-10954. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, March 15, 1989. Retrieved from: <http://awic.nal.usda.gov/final-rules-animal-welfare-9-cfr-parts-1-and-2>



## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee™

- Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. Public Health Service: Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8/7/02). Retrieved from: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>