

## **Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Adoption Policy**

### **Purpose**

This policy provides guidance to investigators and other individuals concerning the adoption of animals that have served the University in research or teaching. Research animals that are naive, were used as control animals or were subjects in relatively benign experiments may be adopted out to Auburn University employees or other individuals approved by the Principal Investigator (PI) and the University Veterinarian or designee. This policy will outline procedures necessary to complete the adoption process. Due to their market value, food animals and horses must be sold and are therefore exempt from this policy.

### **Responsibilities and Scope**

The University Veterinarian or designee is responsible for examining the animal, reviewing the protocol and clinical record and discussing with the prospective owner any potential health concerns that previous usage may have created.

### **Definitions**

Naive: animal that has not undergone an experimental procedure

Procedure: protocol related experiment with the potential to cause lasting clinical health issues

Benign experiment: protocol related experiment that the University Veterinarian or designee has determined to have minimal, if any, impact on the animal's long term health.

### **Initiating Adoption**

1. Investigators seeking to adopt out an animal should submit written permission allowing adoption and a complete research/medical history to the University Veterinarian or designee at 311 Greene Hall Annex. Animals will only be considered for adoption if:

- The purpose the animal was acquired for no longer exists
- The animal will not be needed in another IACUC approved study
- The IACUC approved protocol from which the animal originates includes adoption as a means of disposition
- Space is available to house the animal prior to adoption

2. Individuals seeking to adopt a research animal should contact the PI, obtain written permission to adopt from the PI and complete the CVM Adoption Questionnaire. Both permission to adopt and the Adoption Questionnaire should be submitted to the University Veterinarian or designee at 311 Greene Hall Annex.

### **Review of clinical history and examination**

1. The University Veterinarian or designee will review the research/medical history provided by the investigator. Procedures that may cause significant or lasting health concerns will preclude an animal from being considered as candidate for adoption. Animals that may not be eligible for adoption include but are not limited to:

- Animals exposed to a hazardous agent or treated with a contained isotope
- Any animal that is not clinically and behaviorally normal

- Any animal that has experienced any manipulation that has permanently altered their anatomical, physiological, metabolic or locomotor function
- Animals implanted with medical devices
- Transgenic or genetically engineered animals
- Animals that have been administered non-FDA approved compounds
- Animals previously donated or client-owned unless designated for potential adoption by the donor or client
- Animals requiring an Alabama Department of Fish and Game permit

2. A complete physical exam will be performed with particular attention paid to the systems that were subjects of the research protocol. Blood work, serology or other diagnostic testing may be ordered. The animal's temperament and behavior will be a strong consideration when evaluating the adoptability of an animal. The animal should be up-to-date on vaccines, free of internal parasites and deemed healthy.
3. The University Veterinarian or designee will make a determination whether the animal will make a reasonable adoption candidate based on the research/medical history of the animal and on any finding of the physical exam.
4. The University Veterinarian or designee will review the Adoption Questionnaire to determine the ability of the potential owner to provide a good home for the animal being adopted.
5. Disputes concerning the suitability of adoptee/adopter will be referred to the IACUC for final resolution.

### **Sterilization**

1. **All animals must be spayed or neutered before adoption.** Sterilization may be performed by a LAH veterinarian, clinician of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital or other veterinarian approved by the University Veterinarian or designee. The PI on the protocol from which the animal originates is responsible for the cost of sterilization.

### **Permanent Record**

1. The final notation in the animal's permanent clinical record will state that the animal was adopted out as a private pet.
2. The Adoption Agreement will be placed in the permanent record.
3. A summary of the animal's clinical record and research procedures pertinent to the animal's future clinical care, will be provided to the adopter.

### **Adoption Failure**

1. Animals may not be returned to Auburn University. It is the responsibility of the adopter to find a new home for the animal once if they are no longer able to maintain the animal as their personal pet. It is expected that the adopter will perform this placement of the animal responsibly and that the animal will be maintained as a personal pet and not used for any other purpose including, but not limited to, any illegal or harmful activity that may have adverse effects upon the animal or Auburn University.