

## Unexpected Outcomes

Federal laws, regulations and policies require continued institutional oversight of animal use activities after IACUC approval. Researchers participate centrally in this oversight by reporting any unanticipated research outcomes to the IACUC. The Principal Investigator or their designee must contact the University Veterinarian (Attending Veterinarian) or IACUC as soon as an adverse outcome is identified or suspected. Reporting will allow the University Veterinarian and the IACUC to work with the researcher to assess the situation and develop a plan for revising the protocol and/or experimental protocol as needed to ensure the well-being of the animals by circumventing or alleviating the impact of the unexpected outcome.

Examples of reportable unexpected outcomes:

- The phenotype of a genetically modified or mutant animal is discovered to include an unexpected condition that negatively affects animal well-being.
- Physical restraint of an animal results in lesions, illness or behavioral changes.
- A surgical procedure causes unexpected complications.
- A higher than expected morbidity or mortality rate occurs due to the experiment or other unanticipated events (e.g. husbandry problem, infection).

Examples of unexpected outcomes that do not require reporting:

- Death or morbidity of animals described as expected in the approved IACUC protocol.
- Mortality resulting from surgical complications anticipated in the approved protocol at or below the rate anticipated in the approved protocol.
- Injury/illness unrelated to approved procedures and being treated by a veterinarian.

[Click Here to submit an Animal Unexpected Outcome Report](#)

References:

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC, 2011

Guide for the Care and use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, FASS, 2010

Animal Welfare Regulations, CFR, Chapter 1, subchapter A.