



I. 7.4.1 Institutional Program for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

Chapter 7 - Research and Sponsored Programs	Original Effective Date: June 2000
Section: Institutional Program for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals	Date Last Reviewed: December 2024
Responsible Entity: Vice President for Research	Date Last Revised: December 2024

II. Purpose

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio), as an institution conducting research, teaching, and education using laboratory animals, adheres to federal regulations as published in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA); the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide); the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals; and the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training. This policy defines the entities that contribute to the mission to protect the welfare of animal subjects as part of the Institutional Program for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

III. Scope

The Institutional Program for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals is applicable to all of UT Health San Antonio (University), inclusive of the School of Medicine, the Dental School, the School of Nursing, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the School of Health Professions, School of Public Health San Antonio, centers, and organized research units.

IV. Policy

The University maintains an Institutional Animal Care and Use Program accreditation by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC). The University has an assurance with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) to conduct research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is registered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

A. Program Structure

The University's program for the humane care and use of laboratory animals involves four entities working together to ensure that the University remains in compliance with

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federal and institutional guidelines and regulations and remains accredited by the regulatory agencies. The four entities are the Designated Animal Research Officers (DARO), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the Animal Research Compliance (ARC), and the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR).

B. Reporting

As a major biomedical research institution, UT Health San Antonio values its laboratory animals. Any deficiencies or perceived deficiencies in animal care and treatment are to be reported promptly to the Laboratory Animal Resources staff, the ARC Office staff, any DARO or departmental Chair, any Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee member, the Vice President for Research, as the Institutional Official (IO), or the University Police. The identity of those filing reports will be kept confidential as required by the Animal Welfare Act. Reports of abuse or misuse of laboratory animals will be investigated immediately by the veterinarians, the IACUC, and if necessary, the University Police.

V. Definitions

There are no defined terms used in this Policy.

VI. Related References

There are no related documents associated with this Policy.

VII. Review and Approval History

The approving authority of this policy is the University Executive Committee.

Effective Date	Action Taken	Approved By	Approved Date
06/2000	Policy Origination		
11/2004	Policy Revision		
06/2021	Policy Revision/Discretionary Edit		
12/2024	Policy Revision/Discretionary Edit		