

Animal Usage Policy



Effective Date: 2010

Approved by: Dean of Agriculture

Policy Owner: Animal Welfare Committee

Last Reviewed: 8/11/2020

Last Revised: 8/11/2020

Revision Approved by: Shawna Tucker, Dean of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing

Laboratory animals are defined as all live vertebrate animals used in teaching, testing, research, or extension activities by Oklahoma Panhandle State University

The use of laboratory animals by Oklahoma Panhandle State University scientists and educators places moral, legal, and ethical responsibilities on the University. Individual faculty members and other employees are obligated to use animals with sensitivity, avoiding all unnecessary pain, distress, or inappropriate use and complying fully with all applicable federal, state, local and University rules, regulations and policies.

This policy is established to:

1. Ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations
2. Ensure compliance with applicable policies of granting agencies
3. Avoid unnecessary pain, distress, or inappropriate use of animals
4. Safeguard the health of University employees and students
5. Avoid discomfort or annoyance to personnel by odors and noises from animals
6. Maintain laboratory animals in a state of health adequate for their intended use
7. Avoid publicity that would reflect unfavorably on the University and its individual faculty and administrators.

Oklahoma Panhandle State University subscribes to the U.S. Interagency Research Animal Committee Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training.

The Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89-544) and subsequent amendments establishes minimal standards for the care, use, and transportation of laboratory animals. The standards were originally promulgated and are periodically revised by officials of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Compliance is monitored by unannounced inspections by representatives of the USDA.

Procedures:

1. Review at least once annually the institution's program for humane care and use of animals
2. Inspect at least annually all of the institutional animal facilities
3. Review concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution
4. Review protocols for all usage of animals in research, testing, educational, or extension activities.

5. The Dean of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing is the designated individual as director with responsibility for the overall operation of the unit. This individual shall ordinarily be the principal investigator for animal related projects. The director shall ensure that the unit is managed in accordance with all applicable rules, regulations, and policies.

Animal Use Protocol Review:

Any use of animals shall be approved by the Dean of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing in advance of actual use.

Evaluations of protocols by the Dean of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing are guided by the Animal Welfare Act as amended; the Public Health Service policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals; the U.S. Interagency Research Animal Committee Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training; current scientific knowledge and community standards.

OPSU Animal Usage Protocol will include:

1. Location of the facility
2. Name of responsible individual
3. Species to be used
4. Nature of animal usage (e.g. type of research or instructional activity)
5. Approximate number of each species to be used

Waste Disposal:

1. Soiled bedding and other accumulated animal waste products shall be removed with sufficient frequency to keep animals dry and clean, and minimize odors.
2. Disposal of dead animals may be accomplished by collection by a rendering plant, proper burial, or placement in a designated location far away from other livestock or laboratory animals. Requests for postmortem examination of dead animals may be directed upon approval from the Dean of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing.
3. Appropriate precautions must be taken in disposal of hazardous waste including infectious material. Disposal procedures shall be in conformance with established University, state, and federal guidelines and policies.
4. Each research facility shall provide for the training of scientists, animal technicians, and other personnel involved with animal care and treatment. Such training shall include instruction on:
 - a. The humane practice of animal maintenance and experimentation;
 - b. Research or testing methods that minimize or eliminate the use of animals or limit animal pain or distress;