

Procedure: IACUC-36
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**UC Davis
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

Title: Adoption of Animals Used in Research and Teaching

I. Purpose:

This policy provides guidance to investigators and other personnel concerning the adoption of animals owned by UC Davis.

II. Policy:

An animal that participated in research or teaching may be adopted as a companion animal provided the animal is in good health, has an expectation for a normal quality of life, and has a suitable temperament. The individual adopting the animal (adopter) must demonstrate that they can provide a suitable home for the adoptee when it leaves the University. Once the animal has left the University, it cannot be returned, and the adopter assumes all responsibility for the animal.

III. Suitability:

Some animals are not available for adoption because state and University policies or regulations prohibit private ownership or donation of some species. Examples include, but are not limited to, nonhuman primates, animals requiring a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Permit (e.g., ferrets, gerbils, deer), and livestock with a deemed value (P&P 340-30 [Disposal of Agricultural By-Products](#)). The adoption of animals that have received transgenic material(s) may be considered on a case-by-case basis following supplemental review and approval by the IACUC and Institutional Biosafety Committee.

The typical mechanism for adoption is by the identification of an individual who wishes to adopt and assume permanent ownership of an animal. This is initiated by the potential adopter submitting a completed adoption application to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS). All adoptions are determined by a first-come-first served basis pending approval of the adoption application by a CVS adoption coordinator. Under special circumstances, and with permission from the Attending Veterinarian (AV) or designee, a

temporary home may be found through a rescue, foster, county shelter, or SPCA group who will assume full responsibility for the care and welfare of that animal until a permanent home can be identified.

IV. Procedure:

1. Animals considered suitable for adoption must be identified on the IACUC protocol by including a note in Disposition Section 17 regarding adoption of qualified animals as per IACUC Policy 36.
2. The Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for the per diem charges, veterinary care, and behavioral service fees associated with the adoption. All cats and dogs must be fully vaccinated prior to adoption. Exceptions/changes may be made by a CVS veterinarian based on the timing of required booster vaccines or the health status of the animal. All dogs, cats, and rabbits must be neutered prior to adoption. Neuter procedures may be completed by the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) or CVS and will follow standard veterinary practice for anesthesia, procedure, recovery, and post-operative care. An animal cannot leave the University until a CVS veterinarian deems the animal fully recovered from surgery and a pre-adoption physical examination is performed (within one week of the adoption date).
3. Once the studies with the animals have been completed, selected shelters, the SPCA, and, where appropriate, rescue organizations, may be notified of the availability of the animals. Flyers may be used as advertisement on university property in areas where research animals are housed or research is conducted (as approved by the AV or designee). Advertisements to the general public are prohibited without the written consent of the AV or designee.
4. Animals used for noninvasive experimental procedures that have not resulted in adverse and/or long-term physiologic or physical changes (e.g., pharmacokinetic study, behavior study) may be adopted if they are determined by the AV or designee to be in good health with a suitable temperament. Prior to adoption, the AV or designee must be contacted in order to assess the animal for adoption and for application assessment of the person(s) requesting to adopt the animal.
5. The adopter must be able to provide evidence of suitable housing, husbandry, companionship, and veterinary care to the animal. If the home is considered temporary, the person or organization must assume responsibility for the animal until a suitable permanent home is found.
6. Individuals interested in adopting a qualified research or teaching animal must complete an "Adoption Application" form stating their name, address, a description

of housing available for the animal, and a description of their rationale for the adoption request. Adoption Application forms are available by website: <https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Adoption-Application-2022.pdf>, email: lahc@ucdavis.edu, or phone: CVS at 530-752-0514. The individual or agency representative requesting to adopt the animal must sign a release of liability prior to adoption. If the animal will be housed in a rental property, landlord approval must also be provided.

7. The Adoption Application form will be reviewed by the CVS Adoption Coordinator. The Adoption Coordinator will verify that the potential adopter understands the adoption policy and the responsibilities of adopting a research or teaching animal. The adoption may be approved provided all the criteria for adoption have been met.

Dogs must be found suitable for adoption based on physical examination and may be assessed by the VMTH Behavior Services team if deemed necessary by the clinical veterinarian in order to determine if the temperament is suitable for adoption. If an animal is deemed unsuitable for adoption, the PI may appeal the decision to the IACUC.

8. The adopter will receive a copy of the signed "Adoption Application" form, a spay or neuter certificate (if applicable), and vaccination history (if applicable) on or before the day the animal is adopted and relocated to the new home.
9. Adoption of animals housed at the Center for Equine Health (CEH) must follow the CEH Acquisition, Use and Disposition of Horses Policies and Procedures.
10. Adoption of animals housed at the Gourley Teaching Center is handled through the Gourley Teaching Center.
11. Facility Managers may use the UC Davis Adoption Application form or another form approved by the AV or designee.

V. Resources:

1. American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Adoption Forms and Additional Resources
https://www.aalas.org/iacuc/iacuc_resources/animal-adoption-forms
2. American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) Position Statement on Adoption of Research Animals
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5710161/>
3. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Policy Statement on Adoption of Research Animals

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/research-dogs-and-cats-adoption>

4. "UC Davis Adoption Application"

<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Adoption-Application-2022.pdf>