Animal Adoptions

Adoption of Animals Used in Research and Teaching

Purpose
This policy provides guidance to investigators and other personnel concerning the adoption of animals owned by the University for the purpose of research or teaching.

Policy
An animal used in research or teaching may be adopted as a companion animal provided that the animal is in good health, has an expectation for a normal quality of life and has a suitable temperament. The person or organization adopting the animal (adopter) must be able to provide a suitable home for the animal once it leaves the University. Once the animal has left the University, it cannot be returned.

Suitability
Some animals are not available for adoption because state and University policies or regulations prohibit private ownership or donation of some animals. Examples of these types of animals include, but are not limited to, non-human primates, transgenic animals, animals requiring a California Department of Fish and Game Permit (for example ferrets, gerbils, deer), and livestock with a deemed value (P&P 340-30 Disposal of Agricultural By-Products [1]).

The usual mechanism for adoption shall be identification of a person who wishes to adopt and assume permanent ownership of that animal. 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 found.

Procedure

1. Animals considered suitable for adoption must be identified on the IACUC protocol (Section 17: Disposition of Animals) by adding "Animals will be adopted out at the conclusion of the project per IACUC policy 36".

2. The Principal Investigator will be responsible for the per diem charges, veterinary and behavioral services fees associated with the adoption. All dogs and cats must be fully vaccinated (FVRCP or DHLPP within a year, depending on species and rabies within one or three years depending on vaccine) prior to adoption. All dogs, cats, and rabbits must be neutered prior to adoption. Neuter procedures may be
completed by the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) or Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) and will follow standard veterinary practice for anaesthesia, procedure, recovery, and post-operative care. An animal cannot leave the University until the responsible veterinarian deems the animal recovered from surgery.

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. Advertisements to the general public are discouraged and must be submitted to the Attending Veterinarian or designee for review and approval prior to posting.

4. Animals used for noninvasive experimental procedures that have not resulted in any 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 and have a suitable temperament. Prior to adoption, the AV or designee must be contacted and will assess the suitability of the animal for adoption and the person adopting the animal. The AV or designees will conduct this assessment within 10 business days after notification from investigators.

5. The adopter must be able to provide suitable housing, husbandry, companionship, and veterinary care to the animal. Persons requesting ownership assume full responsibility for the adopted animal. If the home is considered temporary, the person or organization must assume responsibility for the animal until a permanent home is found.

6. Individuals interested in adopting a former research or teaching animal must complete an "Adoption Request/Questionnaire" form stating their name, address, a description of housing available for the animal, and a description of the rationale for wanting to adopt the animal. Adoption Request/Questionnaire forms are available from CVS at 530.752.0514 or by clicking here [2]. The individual or agency representative adopting the animal must sign a release of liability prior to adoption.

7. The Adoption Request/Questionnaire form will be reviewed by the CVS Adoption Coordinator. The Adoption Coordinator will verify potential adopter understands the adoption policy and the responsibilities of adopting a research animal. The adoption may approve the adoption provided all the criteria for adoption have been met.
   Dogs found suitable for adoption based on physical exam may be assessed by the VMTH behavior services to determine if their temperament is suitable for adoption.
   If an animal is deemed unsuitable for adoption, the Principal Investigator may appeal the decision to the IACUC.

8. The adopter will receive a copy of the signed "Adoption Request/Questionnaire" form and vaccination history if applicable on or before the day they take their new pet home.

Procedure: IACUC-36
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Contact

IACUC-Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
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More information
External links

1. P&P 340-30 Disposal of Agricultural By-Products [1]

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Links