



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

## IACUC Guidance for the Use of Tissue in Research, Teaching, and Testing

### I. PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE OAKLAND UNIVERSITY IACUC APPROVAL

In accordance with federal regulations, (OLAW and USDA/Animal Care) any proposal involving animals to be killed for the purpose of using their tissues, or one that involves project-specific manipulation prior to euthanasia is not exempt from protocol review. Therefore, if an animal is acquired and euthanized specifically for tissue collection, a full animal use description protocol must be submitted and approved by the IACUC. It is important to note that PHS grant applications which propose the use of either shared tissues or tissues from a slaughterhouse must be clear as to the origin of the tissue.

a. Researchers planning on using dead animals or parts of dead animals, and will be euthanizing animals for the purpose of obtaining those tissues or other materials,

or

b. will be performing project-specific manipulation of animals prior to killing them, will require Oakland University **IACUC review and approval prior to initiation of the research.**

The OU IACUC has determined that the use of tissues obtained from a slaughterhouse, commercial sources, or as a by-product following euthanasia of animals in other unrelated IACUC-approved projects at other institutions does not require IACUC review. Sharing of tissues is allowed for Principal Investigators within the Biomedical Research Support Facility (BRSF) who have OU IACUC approved protocols to do so.

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### II. COLLABORATIONS

Researchers conducting collaborative research with another institution may require certain agreements prior to initiation of the research. If any tissue harvested on an OU IACUC-approved protocol will be sent to a collaborating institution, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) will also be required between the collaborating institutions. The collaborating institution may also require their own IACUC review and approval in accordance with their institutional policies and procedures. In such cases, the OU IACUC must be provided with a copy of the collaborating institution's IACUC-approved protocol and approval letter.

Researchers conducting collaborative research with another institution and receiving harvested tissue from that institution under the conditions specified in section 1a. and 1b. must submit an IACUC-approved protocol application and approval letter from that institution to the OU IACUC. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) will also be required between the collaborating institutions. The institution that is the grant awardee of any funds awarded is responsible for initiating any MOUs or MTAs. If outside institutions fail to initiate these agreements, Principal Investigators are encouraged to notify the Director of Regulatory Support at Oakland University. The Director of Regulatory Support will work with the Oakland University Office of Legal Affairs and the collaborating institution to ensure all applicable agreements are in place prior to initiation of the research.

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### III. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER REGULATIONS

#### Acquisition of Animal Tissues

The PI must have knowledge of all regulations pertaining to the acquisition of animal tissues under study, have obtained all permits necessary for carrying out the proposed studies prior to their initiation, and ensure that studies will be conducted in accordance with all wildlife regulations when applicable.

#### Shipping

[Shipping and receiving of animal tissues/specimens](#) must be conducted in accordance with federal safety and [importation guidelines and regulations](#). The PI must act in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service regulations regarding the limits on [importation of animals or tissues](#) that may have been exposed to an exotic livestock or poultry disease agent, and the limits on the

importation of plants and other vegetable matter. The PI must act in accordance with the Public Health Service Foreign Quarantine Regulations ([42 CFR 71.54](#)) which govern the importation and transfer of [etiologic agents and vectors of human disease](#). U.S. Fish and [Wildlife Service regulations](#) must also be followed. The movement of other non-infectious materials such as formalin-fixed tissues, sterile cell cultures, and other preserved tissues or materials where no evidence or indication exists that they contain an infectious agent of animal or public health significance are not governed by these regulations.

### **Occupational Health and Safety**

Occupational health and safety principles require that personnel using animal tissues know the hazards associated with their work, understand how these hazards are controlled, exercise safe practices, and use proper personal protective equipment and supplies.

The use of fresh or frozen animal tissue may pose a risk to the health of researchers and technicians through the transfer of disease ([zoonosis](#)) such as brucellosis, leptospirosis, and listeriosis. The University maintains a program for [occupational health and safety](#) of employees working with animals.

The PI must ensure that prior to beginning research involving animals and/or animal tissues, personnel/students are familiar with the health risks associated with the species involved in the work. By using the link below, personnel may become familiar with some of the health hazards that might be associated with the animal species from which the tissue is derived. <https://www.oakland.edu/labsafety/animal-worker-safety/>

Researchers using biohazardous agents, radioactive materials, or chemical hazards require appropriate compliance committee approval prior to initiation of the research.

Researchers shipping tissue to another institution that is infected with any biohazardous agents, has had radioactive materials administered, or has been subjected to chemical hazards, must contact the **Laboratory Compliance Manager, Domenic Luongo at 248-370-4314 or [luongo@oakland.edu](mailto:luongo@oakland.edu)** to ensure compliance with shipping regulations.

### **References:**

Adapted from University of Louisville Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Florida State University, Laboratory Animal Resources Policy, *Applicability of the Animal Welfare Act and PHS Policy to Dead Animals and Shared Tissues*