

## **Animal Care and Use at Howard University**

Howard University acknowledges and accepts its institutional responsibility as specifically detailed in The Animal Welfare Act<sup>1</sup>, The Guide for The Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2011)<sup>2</sup> and Public Health Services Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2003)<sup>3</sup>.

### **Delegation of Authority**

Howard University faculty, staff and students understand their responsibility for the humane, care and use of animals utilized in research, teaching, testing and breeding. Administrative responsibility for institutional animal research compliance has been delegated from the President through the Provost to the Vice President for Regulatory Research and Compliance and Institutional Official. In turn, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) report to the Vice President for Regulatory Research and Compliance who is also the designated Institutional Official. The Director of Veterinary Service is the Attending Veterinarian of record for Howard University.

Institutions using animals for teaching, research, testing and breeding are required by law (The Animal Welfare Act) to have an Attending Veterinarian, who is a graduate of an accredited veterinary school, and has the training and /or experience to appropriately evaluate the health and well-being of species being used for research, teaching, testing and or breeding at the University.

Although the animal care and use program is the collaborative responsibility of the Institutional Official (IO), the AV and the IACUC, the University provides the AV with the responsibility and the authority to oversee the adequacy of all aspects of animal care and use at Howard University. The University also provides the AV with adequate resources to manage the overall program of veterinary care.

### **Responsibilities of the Attending Veterinarian**

Critical aspects of the role of the AV and the program of veterinary care include the following:

- The AV must have access to all animals used in research, teaching, testing and breeding.
- The AV will assure the observance of all animals on a daily basis in order to assess their health and well-being.
- The AV must have access to medical records of research animals to assess the adequacy of animal care and use in accordance with the approved protocol.

- The AV is authorized to provide medical care to relieve serve pain, stress and distress, or to appropriately euthanize animals in accordance with the approved protocol.
- Whenever possible, the AV must solicit the input of the Principal Investigator, Study Director or responsible research staff member(s) prior to implementing any treatment or euthanasia of a research animal. If, in extreme and rare documented circumstances, it is necessary for the AV to implement animal treatment or euthanasia prior to contacting the responsible research staff member, the AV will promptly notify the Principal Investigator of the action taken.
- The AV must provide guidance and oversight of surgery programs and perioperative care, appropriate selection of anesthesia, analgesia and medicinal agents, appropriate selection and use euthanasia methods, and methods of handling, immobilization and tranquilization.
- The AV will provide timely medical care, and emergency veterinary care must be available on at all times, including after normal working hours, and on weekends and holidays. Whereas, the AV may delegate part of these duties, the assurance of compliance remains the responsibility of the attending veterinarian.
- The AV will establish methods of health surveillance to detect, diagnosis, prevent, and treat or otherwise control disease; manage protocol-associated disease, disability, or other sequelae that are not the intended and approved purpose of the research protocol.
- The AV must to provide oversight for aspects of the animal care program that may include animal husbandry and nutrition, animal enrichment, sanitation practices, zoonosis and pest control, hazard analysis and containment, and animal procurement and transportation.
- With the Institutional and IACUC support, the AV will assure that all professional veterinary staff and laboratory animal care technicians remain knowledgeable about the latest practices and procedures to ensure that the highest quality care attainable is provided to animals involved in research, teaching, testing and breeding.

These responsibilities pertains to the Attending Veterinarian and to qualified person(s) acting as designee(s) of the Attending Veterinarian.

This authority pertains to all animals being used for research, teaching, or testing and breeding on the campuses of Howard University.

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<sup>1</sup>Website for Animal Welfare Act: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/awa.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/awa.shtml)

<sup>2</sup>Website for The Guide for The Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Website for Public Health Services Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2002): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/PHSPolicyLabAnimals.pdf>