

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Veterinary Care		
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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The PHS Policy and Animal Welfare Regulations require a veterinarian as an essential component to the animal care and use program.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the University of North Texas Health Science Center’s Attending Veterinarian, IACUC members and investigators to abide by this policy.

C. PROCEDURES

The Veterinarian:

- i. Has overall responsibility for emergency health matters at the request of DLAM and research staff. The veterinarian may assign or direct a veterinary technician or designee to triage emergency health of other clinical matters.
- ii. Participates as a voting member of the IACUC.
- iii. Reviews all animal related protocols, annual reviews and those amendments that affect personnel or animal welfare that are submitted to the IACUC.
- iv. Provides veterinary oversight on approved research/training projects.
- v. Assures that appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services are available and comply with applicable regulations.
- vi. Assures the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose and treat diseases and injuries.
- vii. Provides “on-call” animal health support on an ongoing basis including weekends, holidays and after regular business hours or arranges back-up veterinary care in their absence.
- viii. Is responsible for the daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being. DLAM staff will do these observations and communicate to the veterinarian any problems of animal health, behavior and well-being.
- ix. Provides guidance to principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.
- x. Provides adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with current established veterinary medical procedures.

D. REFERENCES

- a. [The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(2011\), National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.](#)
- b. [Animal Welfare Act, Public Law 89-544 as amended; codified at 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159.](#)
- c. [PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NIH, Office of the Director, Revised 2015.](#)