

To: Wheaton College Faculty
Re: Animal Research and Teaching Usage on Campus FAQs
From: The Wheaton College Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

To all Wheaton faculty members who conduct research with vertebrates or use vertebrate animals in teaching, this letter is intended to address many of the Frequently Asked Questions regarding animal use on campus:

What is the IACUC?

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is a self-regulating entity that, according to U.S. federal law, must be established by institutions that use laboratory animals for research or instructional purposes to oversee and evaluate all aspects of the institution's animal care and use program.

What does the IACUC do?

The primary directives of the Wheaton College IACUC are:

1. To ensure that vertebrate animals involved in any research or teaching procedures receive humane care and treatment.
2. To verify that animal research is conducted in an appropriate environment.
3. To address concerns regarding the care and use of vertebrate animals in a professional and responsible manner.
4. To verify that the use of live animals is performed in an ethical manner and complies with applicable federal and state regulations.

How does the IACUC implement their directives?

Faculty members who intend to use vertebrates (rats, mice, fish, birds, dogs, cats, etc.) in research or teaching must submit an Animal Care and Use Protocol Application for review by the committee. Even domestic animals that are brought to campus for observation or demonstration purposes must be under a protocol approved by the IACUC (domesticated animals brought to campus are also required to have a current rabies vaccination and any other appropriate vaccinations).

The IACUC committee meets twice a year prior to each semester to review new and existing protocols and procedures. The IACUC also conducts bi-annual facility inspections and reviews materials via email between meetings as necessary.

Does this apply to you?

This policy is applicable to all research or teaching activities involving live vertebrate animals or individuals who bring domesticated animals for observation or demonstration in class. If you are not sure if a specific activity qualifies, please ask a member of the committee (listed below).

Why is IACUC approval required?

According to the Federal Animal Welfare Act, approval by the college IACUC is required PRIOR to the purchase of and/or actual involvement of a vertebrate animal in any research or teaching procedures. Any such project involving an external sponsor must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC before funding is accepted. Failure to comply with these regulations constitutes illegal action and can jeopardize the college's USDA licensing and future status with external funding agencies.

Why all the paperwork?

IACUC records are subject to regular unannounced inspections by representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA inspection reports describe any institutional deficiencies or apparent IACUC record violations, and are accessible to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. For this reason, all IACUC submissions must be carefully prepared and detailed; the IACUC Coordinator is responsible for coordinating IACUC reviews and approvals.

What do I need to do?

The necessary forms are available from the IACUC Chair or Coordinator (see below for committee members). New protocols must be submitted with full documentation and modifications of previously approved protocols can be submitted if changes to the protocol are necessary.

Applicants submitting a protocol for the first time will be asked to be available to briefly attend an IACUC meeting to discuss the proposed activity. Approved protocols will also require follow up by the IACUC to conduct announced post-approval monitoring inspections. These inspections will verify the maintenance of appropriate training, procedural, and pharmaceutical logs if appropriate.

All applications for animal use in courses must be submitted and approved prior to the start of the semester when the planned activity will occur. The IACUC typically meets in August and January for the Fall and Spring semesters, respectively and all protocols must be submitted 2 WEEKS prior to the meeting.

Please contact any of the committee members listed below with questions.

IACUC Committee Members 2009-2010

Meg Kirkpatrick, Chair
Erin Post, IACUC Coordinator
Kathy Morgan
Deb Cato
Dr. Denise Trapani, Veterinarian
Brian Plante, Norton Animal Control and Community Representative