



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Policy for Veterinary Care for the  
System-wide UH Animal Care and Use Program  
First Issues: April 19, 2007 (Revised: 6/4/08)

### *Background*

The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Animals and the US Government Principles requires institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals conducted or supported by the PHS. To be eligible for grants from the PHS for research and training projects using vertebrate animals, the UH must file a written Animal Welfare Assurance acceptable to the PHS, setting forth compliance with the PHS Policy. The Assurance is kept on file and evaluated by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) to assure the adequacy of the UH's animal care and use program.

### *Scope*

The UH Animal Welfare Assurance for the period 2007-2012, assures OLAW that "the University Veterinarian (UV) has direct University System-wide program authority and responsibility to implement the PHS Policy and recommendations of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*." As such the UV or his/her designee, will observe Systemwide animal facilities on at least a quarterly to semi-annual schedule. The UH has filed its Animal Welfare Assurance statement indicating that the total animal care program of the institution will be conducted in accordance with PHS policy and guidelines put forth in the *Guide*. Therefore, in principle, animal facilities associated with the program should be operated in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of the *Guide*, and applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies as appropriate. Depending on the nature of the research or teaching objective, a blending of guidelines may be necessary, and professional judgment exercised. The UV in conjunction with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will ensure that all UH vertebrate animal use facilities in the state have adequate veterinary coverage, and that animals are observed daily by an appropriate person, unless a specific exemption is granted.

Due to the geographical separation of facilities throughout the State, in addition to the diverse nature of the animal programs, non-UH veterinarians may be retained through contract or agreement to provide primary and/or specialized veterinary care, consultation, and emergency care as needed. In such cases, visits to facilities by the University veterinarians may be on a semi-annual basis. However, the UV's office shall be the point of contact for reporting of any changes that impact animal health and welfare. As stated in the UH Assurance, "Non-UH veterinarians associated with the program are to report clinical cases to the UV or designee as they occur."

When Non-UH veterinarians are utilized to observe the health of animals, a mechanism for direct and frequent communication shall be established to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the UV's office on significant problems associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being. In the event of any significant changes in environmental conditions, disease or physiological changes that impacts animal health and welfare should be reported within a reasonable time frame (24-48 hours) following the event to the UV, who will make the judgment as to whether to visit the facility. In the case of non-UH veterinarians associated with the Program, significant clinical case reporting should be made within a reasonable time frame (24-48 hours) following the event to the UV's Office or their designee.

Some aspects of the veterinary-care program can be conducted by persons other than a veterinarian, but a mechanism for direct and frequent communication should be established to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the veterinarian on problems associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being.

Any written program of veterinary care written for particular facilities must have full concurrence with the UV, or their designee, and approved by the UH IACUC.

*Procedure for Oversight by the UV or their designee*

- At least quarterly reviews of facilities by the UV will be made to the facilities in the State that hold animals for more than 12 hours and are associated with the UH Animal Care and Use Program, and that utilize the UV for veterinary care.
- Facilities where animal procedures are conducted, but that do not hold animals for more than 12 hours, will be reviewed semi-annually by the UV. The UV will pre-determine whether to visit while active animal manipulations are being conducted.
- Routine announced visits will be scheduled with the appropriate Facility Manager.
- All facilities must provide a reasonable mechanism to enter the facility, if the UV or designee is listed as the veterinarian on record, so that animal emergencies or concerns can be dealt with expeditiously.
- Unannounced veterinary visits may be conducted at random, in particular for any facility with a history of noncompliance or nonconformity to animal health and welfare standards; or if of real or perceived reports of animal welfare concerns are received by the UV.
- Investigators that have written IACUC-approved relationships with non-UH veterinarians will be visited by the UV or their designee at least semi-annually.
- Any significant changes with environment, disease-status or physiological state of the animals that impact health and welfare at facilities overseen by non-UH veterinarians must be reported within a reasonable time frame (24-48 hours) following the event to the UV by contacting Laboratory Animal Service (LAS) at (808) 956-4444 or email [uhlas@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhlas@hawaii.edu).
- A written program of veterinary care (following the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC)) shall be on file with the UV, and shall have IACUC approval. It shall be reviewed during the IACUC semiannual inspections and updated as needed. Any changes must be made in consultation with the UV.
- Animal activities categorized as D or E may be monitored more frequently.
- A written report by the UV's office will be generated after each visit, and sent to the appropriate Facility Manager within a reasonable time frame following the visit. Final reports will be forwarded to the UH IACUC.