

University of Texas at Austin
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

IACUC Informational Document # 1.0

TITLE	Activities that Require IACUC Approval		
Date of Last Revision	N/A	Version	1.0

The IACUC is responsible for overseeing and evaluating all aspects of animal care and use, and is charged with reviewing proposals that involve animals to ensure that the criteria established in the PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs) are implemented. In its review of proposals, the IACUC’s primary goal is to facilitate compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies consistent with the performance of appropriate and productive scientific endeavors.

The following kinds of activities involving animals are subject to review by the IACUC prior to initiation:

- Activities conducted by University faculty, staff, or students;
- Activities performed on the premises of the University;
- Activities performed with or involving the use of facilities or equipment belonging to the University;
- Activities satisfying a requirement imposed by the University for a degree program or completion of a course of study; and/or
- Activities certified by a dean or department head to satisfy an obligation of a faculty appointment at the University, including requirements for clinical or adjunct appointments.

Defining specific types of activities:

- Research - Many of the animals covered in IACUC review are used in research, including medical, biological, and behavioral research as well as agricultural research (such as the study of food and fiber production or diet manipulation). Most of these animals are acquired and housed by the Institution; some may include free-ranging wildlife.
- Teaching - The use of animals in educational settings is subject to IACUC review. Examples include using animals to teach agricultural techniques, animal husbandry, and medical or veterinary procedures. Review is required even if the activity does not seem to qualify as “true research” (e.g. when the results are not intended for publication, will not advance work in another area, or will not contribute to generalizable knowledge).
- Research conducted by “affiliated faculty” - those who hold clinical or adjunct appointments—is subject to the Institution’s guidelines for animal use and must be submitted for IACUC review. Any research project that is conducted by or under the direction of any employee or agent of the institution, in connection with his or her institutional responsibilities, requires IACUC approval.

- Research Projects in Which the Investigator is a Consultant - In some instances, University faculty or staff may serve in an advisory capacity for a research project conducted outside the University community. IACUC review is required unless the investigator has a strict consulting relationship in which:
 - The investigator is hired on his or her own time;
 - The investigator holds no rights in the work; and
 - Neither the investigator nor the University retains any data.

Unless all three of these criteria are met, the IACUC must review the project. Review by another institution or facility's IACUC is insufficient unless a cooperative arrangement between that IACUC and the Institution's IACUC is agreed upon prior to initiating the consultant relationship.

- Research in Foreign Countries - Research conducted by the Institution's investigators in foreign countries falls under the Institution's purview and guidelines. Regardless of the setting, the standards for ethical and responsible use of animals in research will not be relaxed even if different customs prevail. All animal-based research conducted in foreign countries is subject to IACUC review. This includes the use of animals in foreign research institutions, and fieldwork involving either domestic or wild animals. Research projects must be approved by the local equivalent of an IACUC before they are initiated. Where there is no equivalent board or group, investigators must rely on local experts or community leaders to provide approval. The IACUC requires documentation of this local approval, as well as documentation of any necessary permits, before granting final approval for the project. With regard to activities supported by PHS funds, foreign institutions that serve as performance sites must also have Assurances on file with OLAW.