

University of Texas at Austin
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IACUC Policy # 7.0

Title	IACUC Confidentiality		
Date of Approval	03-09-2011		
Date of Last Revision	04-28-2020	Version	2.0

To protect the integrity of the Institution and its researchers, IACUC members must not:

- Disclose confidential or proprietary information (protocol or investigator specific) to any non-IACUC member or,
- Discuss, or disclose any details of IACUC business (e.g., protocol reviews, non-compliance discussion, subcommittee investigations or reviews, etc.) to third parties without the consent of the IACUC Chair (or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair).

Material provided to the IACUC for review shall be considered confidential information and the members must, therefore, assure the confidentiality of the data contained therein. All IACUC applications and other sensitive review materials must be either filed in a secure location or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner, e.g., shredding.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, IACUC members who violate confidentiality regarding “trade secrets” or other proprietary information may be subject to significant fines. However, this provision of the Animal Welfare Act is not intended to discourage participation on the IACUC, but rather to protect institutions. It should be noted that the USDA Animal Welfare Act Regulations (which implement the Animal Welfare Act itself) state that reports of violations to regulatory agencies by IACUC members are NOT violations of confidentiality requirements.

The IACUC views the sharing of information for educational purposes in faculty and staff meetings an important benefit of departmental representation and is considered a vital part of the member’s experience. This information may include such items as IACUC concepts, policies, regulations, and educational issues, providing no specific personal, confidential, or proprietary information is divulged.

If, following a Full Committee Review, the Committee agrees that consultation or discussions with individuals outside of the Committee are necessary, a person designated by the IACUC will first obtain permission from the Principal Investigator. If the Principal Investigator does not grant such permission, this may preclude final approval by the IACUC if questions concerning the protocol cannot be resolved.

Approval Date	Major Change(s) Approved
04-28-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title changed from “Confidentiality and IACUC Open Meetings Policy” to “IACUC Confidentiality” • The open meetings policy was removed because the IACUC is not subject to the State of Texas Open Meetings Act.