

Office of Research Support and Compliance

Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors

University of Texas at Austin Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee IACUC Policy # 1.2

Title	IACUC Oversight for the Use of Invertebrate Animals		
Date of Approval	06-12-2023	Version	1.0

In order to harmonize best practice standards on an international level, UT Austin's accrediting agency, AAALAC, published guidance on the use of invertebrate animals in research, teaching, and testing with an emphasis on cephalopods. The following statement is quoted from the Rules of Accreditation as found on the AAALAC website:

All animals used or to be used in research, teaching or testing at accreditable units are to be included and evaluated in accordance with the standards set forth in Section 2 of these Rules. This includes traditional laboratory animals, farm animals, wildlife, and aquatic animals. Nontraditional animals, inclusive of invertebrate species, are also included where they are relevant to the unit's mission.

AAALAC has also published the following guidance pertaining to the use of cephalopods in research:

AAALAC International considers the information regarding the humane care of cephalopods, including capture, transport, housing, handling, disease detection/ prevention/treatment, survival surgery, husbandry and euthanasia of these sentient and highly intelligent invertebrate marine animals to be appropriate to apply during site visits. Although there are no current regulations or guidelines requiring oversight of the use of invertebrate species in research, teaching or testing in many countries, adhering to the principles of the 3Rs, justifying their use for research, commitment of appropriate resources and institutional oversight (IACUC or equivalent oversight body) is recommended for research activities involving these species.

Investigators who use live cephalopods for research (including field research), teaching, and testing at UT Austin must obtain approval from UT Austin IACUC by completing the form, "Invertebrate Animal Use Protocol for Cephalopods." This form is an abbreviated version of the vertebrate Animal Use Protocol.

The "Invertebrate Animal Use Protocol for Cephalopods" form can be found on the [IACUC Documents, Forms & Materials webpage](#). The applicable form must be completed and submitted to IACUC@austin.utexas.edu and will be evaluated by designated members of the IACUC.

References

"Caveats from AAALAC's Council on Accreditation Regarding This Resource: Guidelines for the Care and Welfare of Cephalopods in Research– A Consensus Based on an Initiative by CephRes, FELASA and the

Boyd Group.” AAALAC International Reference Resources, <https://www.aaalac.org/pub/?id=E9012458-E8F7-1CB9-E298-B0A29C3193A5>.

“Rules of Accreditation.” AAALAC International, May 2020, www.aaalac.org/accreditation/rules.cfm.