

<b>University of Notre Dame Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Policy</b>
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<b>Title: Transferring Animals Between Approved Protocols</b>	
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<b>Effective Date: 7/20/24</b>	<b>Last Revised Date: 7/20/24</b>
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## I. Purpose

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The transfer of naive extra animals for use in other study protocols is encouraged, as it supports the principle of reduction of the number of animals used in research.

## II. Definitions

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**Experimentally naïve:** An animal that has not undergone any experimental procedures, including any interventions that contribute to a research data set (such as collection of biometrics).

## III. Policy

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### 1. Request

- a. All animal transfers from one approved protocol to another require an Animal Transfer Form to be submitted and approved before transfer.
- b. A transfer request may be submitted without an IACUC amendment when all of the following apply:
  - i. Animals being transferred are experimentally naïve, retired breeders, or have undergone a simple procedure that does not cause more than momentary pain or distress,
  - ii. The USDA does not regulate animal species being transferred (e.g., mice of the genus *Mus*, rats of the genus *Rattus*, fish, reptiles, and amphibians), and
  - iii. The allotted animal numbers, species, and strains/genotypes are approved on the recipient protocol.
- c. An amendment to the approved IACUC protocol to which animals will be transferred is required when any of the following apply:
  - i. The transfer involves a USDA-regulated species (e.g., guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, etc.)

- ii. The allotted animal numbers, species, or strain/genotype is not listed on the recipient protocol
    - iii. Multiple procedures will be performed on the same animal that could cause pain or distress (between source and recipient protocol)
    - iv. The animal(s) have undergone an experimental procedure that caused more than momentary pain or distress.
    - v. The animal(s) show clinical signs of illness, or
    - vi. The animal(s) was infected with a biohazard or treated with a chemical hazard.
  - d. The transfer form must be submitted to the Attending Veterinarian for USDA-regulated species or ND Research Compliance for non-USDA-regulated species. Once the Principal Investigator receives an approved form, the transfer may proceed.
- 2. Post-mortem Tissue Harvest
  - a. Studies approved for the harvest of tissues post-mortem may use animals from other studies, provided those animals do not require any additional manipulations, are not considered biohazardous, and have the consent of the Principal Investigator listed on the source protocol.
- 3. Restrictions
  - a. Animals may not be reused if their well-being would be compromised, including as the result of any previous experimental procedures which result in:
    - i. Severe or chronic pain
    - ii. Significant alteration in an animal's ability to maintain normal physiology or adequately respond to stressors
  - b. Animals may only be used in multiple major survival surgeries across different protocols when:
    - i. The Principal Investigator of the recipient protocol provides adequate scientific justification for reusing these animals,
    - ii. The use is approved by the IACUC via an amendment, and
    - iii. For USDA-regulated animals, a request submitted by the Institutional Official to USDA/APHIS is approved.
- 4. Training Protocols
  - a. Training protocols will allow a maximum of 4 procedures that produce momentary pain or distress per rodent per training session with a maximum of 4 training sessions. These procedures include:
    - i. IP, IM, SC, ID, or footpad injections with sterile saline
    - ii. Retro-orbital, submandibular, saphenous, or femoral bleeds
    - iii. IV tail vein or retro-orbital injections of sterile saline
  - b. The fifth training session should be scheduled as a terminal procedure to train on one of the following procedures:
    - i. Cardiac exsanguination
    - ii. Euthanasia
    - iii. Surgical procedures followed by euthanasia
    - iv. Perfusion and/or tissue harvesting

- c. Training for manual restraint and using restraint devices may be repeated in multiple training sessions without requiring euthanasia. These procedures limit 4 attempts per animal per training session.

#### **IV. References**

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1. Public Health Service (PHS) Policy.
2. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th ed..