

University of Notre Dame Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Policy	
Title: Ethics and Animal Research	
Effective Date: 7/20/24	Last Revised Date: 7/20/24

I. Purpose

The opportunity to use animals in research should be seen as a privilege rather than a right. As such, there are several ethical principles to which researchers must adhere when using animals in research or teaching at the University of Notre Dame.

II. Policy

1. The minimum number of animals should be used.

Researchers should statistically determine the lowest number of animals needed to yield valid data and provide adequate justification for this number in the IACUC protocol.

2. Alternatives should be used when possible.

For some types of research, it may be possible to use non-animal alternatives such as computer simulations or in vitro systems. If a less sentient species (e.g., invertebrate) can yield equally valid data, it should be used. For teaching, video recordings or other inanimate models are sometimes adequate replacements for live vertebrate animals.

3. Pain and distress should always be minimized.

If less invasive procedures can be used to complete an experiment, they should be used. Likewise, anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers must be used when procedures involving more than momentary pain or distress are to be performed unless otherwise scientifically justified. Any scientific justification for unrelieved pain and distress must be fully described in the IACUC protocol and requires approval by the Committee.

4. Animal care must promote animal health and well-being.

Husbandry and animal care procedures and equipment must be of a high enough standard to promote optimal animal health and well-being. This should include consideration of methods to enrich the animals' environment through means such as group housing of social species and provision of objects and manipulanda,

which encourage species-typical behavior. While veterinary staff may assist with husbandry, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that animals under any approved IACUC protocol receive adequate care at all times.

5. Personnel must be properly trained.

It is critical that all personnel handling animals be properly trained so that animals are treated appropriately. Such efforts will serve to reduce the possibility of distress to the animals. Training in the care and use of animals may be completed through a review of written materials or hands-on training in procedures or care. The Principal Investigator must ensure that all personnel working with animals have completed appropriate training.

III. References

1. Public Health Service (PHS) Policy IV.C.1.
2. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th ed., p. 12.