



MEMO

To: All Campus Investigators using animals in research or teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Deans, Center Directors, Animal Facility Managers, Animal Care Supervisors, Animal Care Staff

From: John D. Wiley, Chancellor
Martin Cadwallader, Vice Chancellor for Research

Re: Reiteration and Clarification of UW-Madison Policy Relating to the Authority of Attending Veterinarians

Date: February 13, 2004

Recently we charged a committee, chaired by Dean Daryl Buss, with reviewing issues that impact the delivery of veterinary care on campus. In their report, the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Review Veterinary Aspects of the UW-Madison Campus Animal Care and Use Program noted that “the authority granted to the LAV (laboratory animal veterinarian), directly and through the ACUC (Animal Care and Use Committee), is often regarded less as an official authority based on position and responsibility than as authority within the limits permitted by the attitude, tradition, and immediate issues of the individual investigator, department or larger unit.” They further reported “there is a divergence of perception across units as to whether or not UW-Madison LAVs have such authority.”

The purpose of this memo is to reiterate the campus policy with respect to veterinary authority and to correct any misperceptions as to its scope and application. The official campus policy on the authority of laboratory animal veterinarians is defined in the attached policy statement.

In addition, we are announcing that Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Policy Tim Mulcahy has been delegated full institutional authority to act on behalf of the University to ensure compliance with this policy and all other university and federal policies and regulations related to the care and use of animals on campus. The Associate Vice Chancellor will work with IACUCs, campus facilities, and all responsible administrative units in the course of discharging this authority. However, the Associate Vice Chancellor is authorized to make ultimate decisions affecting the University’s animal welfare assurance and compliance with federal regulations.

Office of the Chancellor

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UNIVERSITY POLICY ON VETERINARY AUTHORITY

The Animal Welfare Act (2.33.a.2) stipulates “each research facility shall ensure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.” Section 2.33.b (1)-(5) of the Act define the elements of “adequate veterinary care” for the purposes of the federal regulations. In keeping with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, attending veterinarians at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have the authority to require actions that in their professional judgment are necessary to:

1. Assure that facilities (including animal physical environment and environmental enrichment), equipment, and services (including behavioral management, husbandry, population management, nutrition, sanitation and hazard abatement) present at or provided by any animal facility are adequate to insure an appropriate level of animal care and personnel safety.
2. Assure that personnel are appropriately trained in the provision of animal care, the safe conduct of animal research, and the conduct of approved research or teaching involving animals.
3. Assure that procedures for animal procurement and transportation are appropriate and provide oversight and guidance for quarantine, stabilization and separation of animals.
4. Assure the presence and appropriate use of methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, including those that may be associated with research or teaching. This includes (a) the development and use of effective channels of communication among the veterinarians, animal care staff, and investigators, (b) the establishment of appropriate health monitoring practices, and (c) the development of adequate and accessible medical, husbandry, experimental, and teaching records. This provision also requires that the attending veterinarian has the authority to direct and/or provide for appropriate medical care, including euthanasia, as necessary and consistent with established veterinary practice.
5. Assure that there exist mechanisms of direct and frequent communication regarding daily observations of animals, so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the veterinarian.
6. Assure that principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals understand and employ appropriate handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia of all animals used in research or teaching.
7. Assure the provision of adequate pre- and post-procedural animal care in accordance with current established veterinary medical and nursing procedures.

Furthermore, attending veterinarians are authorized to intercede in any activity involving the use of animals for research or teaching purposes which in their judgment jeopardizes animal welfare or compliance with federal or university policies.

This policy supercedes any local policies or practices related to the authority of campus laboratory animal veterinarians. Compliance with this policy is required of all campus investigators, facility managers, animal care supervisors, animal caretakers, all departments, college units, IACUCs and animal facilities as a condition for retaining the privilege to work with animals at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. No individual or unit using animals for research or teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is exempt from this policy.