

The University of Tennessee - Knoxville Policy for Reporting Noncompliance with Laboratory Animal Care and Use Guidelines

The University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK) is strongly committed to high standards of animal care and compliance with all applicable regulations, policies and guidelines. Our animal care and use program is governed by Federal Guidelines for the care and use of animals for research and teaching. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) oversees the entire program and reviews and approves all animal related studies. The animal care and use program at UTK is accredited by AAALAC, considered the highest endorsement of excellence.

If you observe or have knowledge of activities that you believe constitute inappropriate animal care and use, you are encouraged to report these activities so that they can be investigated.

1. Concerns or complaints regarding animal usage within UTK should be brought directly to the attention of the people involved whenever possible.
2. If the concern or complaint cannot be handled directly, or if an individual wishes to report anonymously, it may be handled one of two ways:
 - a. If an emergency situation exists, the University Attending Veterinarian or designee should be contacted immediately. Call 974-5634 at any time to find out which Laboratory Animal Veterinarian is on call. If after hours, voice mail will give emergency contact information. Contact the Laboratory Animal Veterinarian. In addition, emergency contact information is posted in each animal facility. The University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian will take any necessary immediate action.
 - b. If the situation is not an emergency, the concern or complaint should be submitted to the Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or the Office of Laboratory Animal Care. The Committee Chairman will assign an ad hoc investigative committee to investigate the concern and prepare a report for the Animal Care and Use Committee. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee will review the concern or complaint. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee will determine what action will be taken and notify the principal investigator of such action.
3. A written reply to those primarily involved and to the Institutional Official will follow each concern or complaint submitted to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. All reports will be filed in the IACUC Office for documentation of the incident and the investigation.
4. As per federal regulations, no facility employee, student, IACUC member or laboratory personnel will be discriminated against, or be subject to any reprisal, for reporting noncompliance.
5. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee may suspend an activity that it previously approved if it determines that the activity is not being conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, the Guide, and the institution's Letter of Assurance with the National Institutes of Health.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
865-974-3631 <http://iacuc.tennessee.edu>

Office of Laboratory Animal Care
865-974-5634 OLAC@utk.edu