



Animal Care and Use Program

Policy for Transfer of Animals Between Protocols

Objective:	Research animals may be transferred from one protocol to another under the conditions set forth in this policy.
Author:	Attending Veterinarian, Laboratory Animal Resources
Date:	July 26, 2021

Scope

The Animal Care Program at UNCC encourages the sharing of animals to be effective application of the 3 Rs (Russell and Burch, 1959). In this spirit of conserving animals, it is reasonable and appropriate for one Principal Investigator (PI) to transfer unused or extra animals to another PI rather than euthanizing such animals. In addition, it is appropriate for an investigator to transfer animals from one of his/her protocols to another. However, it is necessary that animal numbers be properly tracked and likewise, animals should not be over-utilized. This policy describes the conditions under which this transfer may occur and the procedures to be followed.

Overview

Animals can be transferred from one research protocol to another or from one investigator to another if certain conditions are met, as described below. Both investigators must agree to the transfer and sign the Animal Transfer Form.

Process/Procedures

- a) Animals can be transferred from one investigator's protocol to another investigator's protocol **with no restrictions** if the animals to be transferred are purpose-bred or surplus animals (animals not used on assigned protocol) from an existing project and have not been manipulated surgically or experimentally.
- b) If the animals to be transferred have had a surgical procedure done, the receiving investigator can only use the animals for terminal surgical procedures (i.e., tissue harvest) or non-surgical procedures (e.g., injections, blood draws, behavior analysis).
- c) In order for a transfer to take place, an Animal Transfer Form must be completed by the original investigator, signed by both investigators, and approved by the Vivarium Director or the IACUC Chair
- d) Until the transfer is completed, *per diem* charges will be charged to the original investigator. The number of animals transferred will be subtracted from the total number of animals on the census of the original protocol and added to the protocol of the accepting investigator.

References

- Russell, W.M.S and Burch, R.L. *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique*. 1959.
- National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2011.

Revision History

Approved August 27, 2012

Revised September 28, 2015

Re-approved August 27, 2018; July 26, 2021

Administrative changes September 19, 2022