SPECIES COVERED DEFINITION

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: All Duke animal program protocols will be reviewed for scientific merit, ethical use, and humane care & use.

BACKGROUND: Federal regulations, PHS Policy, and standards of AAALAC accreditation require that each research institution establish a process for management and oversight of animal care and use activities. Depending upon the federal agency, the definition of a ‘covered species’ changes. For example, the USDA defines ‘covered species’ as any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm-blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes birds, rats of the genus Rattus, and mice of the genus Mus bred for use in research; horses not used for research purposes; and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to, livestock or poultry used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. The NIH defines ‘covered species’ as any vertebrate animal to include free swimming aquatics having a backbone. Duke has chosen to specify its own definition of ‘covered species’ considering all federal requirements and the relative sentience of species used for research, testing, or teaching at Duke. This policy applies to all research procedures involving ‘covered species.’

ROLES: The IACUC will provide oversight of the care & use of all covered species. Investigators will obtain IACUC approval for use of all covered species.

POLICY:

1. A ‘species covered’ is any animal belonging to the:
   a. PHYLUM Chordata, CLASS Vertebrata (all vertebrates), and the
   b. PHYLUM Mollusca, CLASS Cephlapoda (e.g., octopus and squid).
2. The use of ‘species covered’ in research, testing, or teaching at Duke requires approved protocols and/or SOPs.
3. The IACUC shall perform oversight for ‘species covered’ without distinction to delineations of what is / is not an animal as defined in federal regulation (USDA / PHS).
4. Feeding live-prey to other animals:
   a. Feeding a covered species to other animals (either covered or non-covered) must be scientifically justified in the IACUC-approved protocol.
   b. Feeding non-covered species to other animals must be approved by a DLAR/DLC veterinarian, described in animal care SOP, or described in an IACUC-approved protocol.