



Duke University & Duke University Medical Center Animal Care & Use Program Policy



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: Authority and responsibility for performing animal care as approved by the Duke IACUC or consistent with Duke DLAR Care SOPs is assigned to the Principal Investigator (PI).

BACKGROUND: Federal regulation, 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. Duke has chosen to identify the Principal Investigator as the individual who will be responsible for all animal work performed under his / her approved animal use protocol or SOP. This policy applies to all research procedures involving vertebrate animals.

ROLES: The Principal Investigator has a number of duties and responsibilities:

1. The PI is responsible for all animal care and use activities performed under his / her IACUC approved animal protocol.
2. The PI must complete all required animal handler training, even if not directly handling the animals, as a means of assuring the PI is properly advised on institutional expectations for animal care and use.
3. The PI must assure sufficient training for all individuals working under his / her protocols.
4. The PI must report unexpected or adverse events that affect animals in his / her charge.
5. The PI must provide required signatures and assurances for all IACUC documents (e.g. protocols, amendments, reports) prior to approval of those documents..

POLICY:

1. The definition of a Principal Investigator at Duke is one of the following:
 - a. Faculty of Duke University or Duke University Medical Center
 - b. Veterinarians on staff at the DLAR, DUPC, or VAMC
 - c. Duke or DUMC staff, students (undergraduate or graduate), or third party individuals are considered as a PI with a faculty member (see 1a) or a veterinarian (see 1b) serving as a Sponsor for the proposed activity.
 - i. The Sponsor is responsible to Duke and the IACUC for all activities and obligations involving the animals.
 - ii. All correspondence will be sent to the Sponsor as well as the Principal Investigator.
2. In all cases (sponsored research or internal research), the Principal Investigator is responsible for all animal care and use activities performed under the approved protocol.
3. In all cases, the Principal Investigator is responsible for all activities performed by research personnel on the animals approved under the protocol.