



## Duke University Animal Care & Use Program Policy

### SOURCES OF DOGS AND CATS FOR USE AT DUKE

**PERFORMANCE STANDARD:** All dogs and cats purchased for the Duke program of animal care and use will be procured from USDA approved sources, will have appropriate source documentation, and will be healthy; such that they will provide a stable model for biomedical research or teaching.

**BACKGROUND:** The following is the position statement by the Duke Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) regarding the source for canines to be used in research. Research and DLAR staff will abide by the position statement below unless documented PRIOR approval for an exemption is provided by the IACUC.

#### ROLES:

1. DLAR orders all dogs or cats being purchased under IACUC approved or sponsored activities.
2. DLAR will confirm USDA Registration status of all vendors pre-purchase. Individuals with current investigations or improprieties being investigated by the USDA will be barred from providing the required animals, unless specifically approved by the IACUC.

**PROTECTION POSTURES REQUIRED:** No specific protection beyond that required for normal animal care is required. These animals may bite, and should be handled with caution.

**POLICY:** The Duke default for purchase of dogs (Canis domesticus) or cats (Felis domesticus) for research is to use Class A animals. The use of Class B dogs or cats must be justified on a protocol by protocol basis [cost alone is insufficient justification]. The level of risk of using Class B dealers for these animals generally outweighs the benefits, however exceptions do exist and will be reviewed by the Duke IACUC on a case-by-case basis. Duke University discourages the use of Class B dog or cat purchases for the following reasons:

1. Class B dealers cannot always guarantee that an animal they deliver to Duke is not or has not been a 'pet.'
2. USDA Class B dealers may collect animals from pounds or shelters where the health status cannot be verified, and suboptimal health may impact research outcomes.
3. USDA Class B dealers may collect animals from sources where the absence of 'pet' status cannot be assured.
4. Typical Class B purchases result in 10-20% rejection, due to inadequate documentation or animal health (this is an economic loss to the study with potentially significant impact to study outcomes). Caused for rejection have included:
  - A. Excessive ecto- and/or endo-parasitism. (Fleas, heartworm, etc.)
  - B. Poor body condition.
  - C. External evidence of recent trauma and/or wounds.
  - D. Aggressive temperament.
  - E. Excessive plaque, tartar, and other evidence of dental disease.
  - F. Significant blood chemistry abnormalities.
  - G. Rickettsial diseases.
  - H. Age is not easy to determine.

Potential effects upon researchers for using Class B animals:

1. Animals rejected at receipt (based upon the entrance physical examination) can result in delays for the researcher.
2. Class B animals may have existing parasite status. Low level or undocumented parasite status, disease status, infection status, genetic diversity may seriously affect research or training outcomes.
3. Class B animals do not always have complete vaccination histories. Uncertain vaccination and/or prior exposure status may place humans at ill defined risk of acquiring zoonotic disease.
4. Additional costs for diagnostic and preventative measures (CBC, blood chemistry, heartworm test, Ehrlichia sp. test, deworming, and fecal float will be charged to the investigator) are required for all incoming Class B animals.
5. A minimum quarantine of 1 week is required.
6. See the Policy on Acclimatization / Stabilization of animals for further requirements.

If Class B animals are scientifically justified to and approved by the Duke IACUC, then all Class B animals will be obtained only from Duke Attending Veterinarian (or his designee) approved vendors.