



Animal Care and Use Policy *Oakwood University*

The use of laboratory animals in research is an integral part of a scientific study. The results generated from animal studies are often extrapolated to humans, and help researchers to better understand human responses to specific procedures and treatments. Based on animal trials, researchers are able to develop therapeutic agents that are used in treating certain diseases and abnormalities.

Laboratory animals that are used for research, teaching, and demonstration purposes must be properly cared for and humanely treated. As a Christian institution, Oakwood College is against all forms of inhumane and cruel treatment of animals within its facilities.

Oakwood College complies with the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals, the regulations of the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare as Amended in August, 2002, (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>) and the IACUC Guidebook, 2nd edition 2002 (<http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/labrats/>). Methods of euthanasia will be consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia, unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.

Summary of Animal Care and Use Policy:

Oakwood College Animal Care and Use Committee (OCACUC) shall determine that the research projects meet the following requirements:

- Procedures with animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals, consistent with sound research design.
- Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals will be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, unless the procedure is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.
- Animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly killed at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.

- The living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. Personnel who are experienced in proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied will direct the housing, feeding, and nonmedical care of the animals.
- Personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied will be appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.
- Methods of euthanasia will be consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia, unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.

The Committee Appointment and Composition:

Vice President for Academic Affairs appoints Oakwood College Animal Care and Use Committee members. The committee membership shall be a minimum of five individuals from various disciplines, a board-certified veterinarian and a community member not directly affiliated with the college as recommended by the PHS policy.

- A biologist/physiologist
- A chemist
- A faculty member from Mathematics/Physics Department
- A faculty member from Business or Psychology Department
- Director of Research and Faculty Development
- A Scientist who is experienced in research involving animals
- A Board-certified veterinarian who is not affiliated with the institution
- A community member who is not affiliated with the institution

Responsibilities of the Animal Care and Use Committee:

Oakwood College Animal Care and Use Committee meets at least every six months (in April & October), and is responsible for:

- Oversight and evaluation of the animal care and use program on the College campus
- Reviewing and approving animal use protocols
- Conducting biannual evaluation of animal facilities
- Reviewing concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution
- Making recommendations to the Institutional Official (Vice President for Academic Affairs) regarding any aspect of the institution's animal program, facilities, or personnel training
- Suspending any activity involving animal care and use policy violations

Review of Animal Care and Use Protocols:

The following topics are considered in the preparation and review of animal care and use protocols:

- Rationale and purpose of the proposed use of animals
- Justification of the species and number of animals requested
- Availability or appropriateness of the use of less-invasive procedures
- Adequacy of training and experience of personnel in the procedures used
- Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals is made available to the animal care personnel and investigators
- Housing and husbandry requirements
- Appropriate sedation, analgesia, and anesthesia
- Post-procedure care, if any
- Method of euthanasia or disposition of animal
- Safety of working environment for personnel