Title: Collaborative Animal Use

The intent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the oversight requirements of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at Illinois State University (ISU) regarding collaborative animal use in research. This SOP is intended for use by IACUC members, researchers, laboratory animal care personnel, and anyone else involved with the use of animals in research or teaching at ISU. This SOP is approved by the ISU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its implementation.

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Collaborative Animal Use

Following is a description of ISU IACUC oversight requirements for collaborative animal use. For situations labelled with an asterisk (*) additional documents addressing liability and other issues may be required.

Research at ISU

Research at ISU with ISU animals but involving non-ISU personnel

All non-ISU individuals working with animals on a protocol must be named on the protocol and must have completed all required training prior to handling animals.

*Research at ISU with non-ISU animals

An ISU IACUC protocol and additional agreements addressing liability issues must be approved prior to commencing activities. Relevant animal records must also be obtained from the collaborating institution supplying the animals.

Research off-site

*Research off-site with ISU animals but not involving ISU personnel

The activities must be covered either by an ISU IACUC protocol or a protocol approved by the site that is subject to review by the ISU IACUC. Relevant animal records must also be provided to the collaborating institution.

*Research at other institutions with their own assurance by ISU personnel with non-ISU animals

ISU personnel collaborating with individuals at other institutions are required to submit an ISU protocol unless:

- the protocol has already been approved at another institution’s IACUC for work to be completed at the other institution or an offsite location; and
- funding is through the collaborative institution without any flow through ISU.

A copy of the approved protocol and approval letter must be provided to the ISU IACUC before work commences. The IACUC would expect the PI's to collaborate only on projects where all of the basic ethical principles of animal care and use still apply.
*Research at a privately-owned site (such as a farm or shelter) with privately owned animals with active involvement of ISU personnel in specimen collection and minor non-invasive procedures*

An ISU protocol must be completed, but the IACUC will defer standard IACUC oversight practices to the PI. Facilities inspections may not be required but will be conducted if concerns arise. The PI must provide written assurance to the IACUC with the new submission and on an annual basis that the facility meets or exceeds appropriate acceptable performance standards of animal care and husbandry. These standards are those typical of well-run facilities in the area (i.e. vet care, sanitation, feed/water, etc.).

If the PI becomes aware of or suspects that the acceptable standards are no longer being met, or that animal abuse has or may be occurring at the facility, the PI must immediately inform the IACUC and immediately cease all research activities at the facility until the issue is addressed by the IACUC. In such case, the level of IACUC oversight will be heightened and the matter will be dealt with under noncompliance/adverse event procedures. In the event the IACUC would require an inspection of the facility as a condition of continuing the research collaboration, that inspection would only occur with permission of the facility.

*Research at a privately owned site (such as a farm or shelter) with privately owned animals with active involvement of ISU personnel in more involved procedures such as invasive procedures, rectal/uterine palpation, tissue sample collection, etc.*

The same procedures articulated in (e) above shall apply, but IACUC involvement will be at a greater level for these activities, with specific procedures to be included depending on the activity.

**Research off-site with non-ISU animals with no involvement of ISU personnel.**

An ISU IACUC approved study is not required for the use of tissue or preserved specimens if they are procured from commercial sources, from colleagues who have protocols that are approved for the harvesting and sharing of such, from museum collections, or from salvaged animals. ISU personnel may not be involved in the collection of the tissue or preserved specimens, unless conducted under an ISU IACUC approved study. These activities may require a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA), or approval from other university committees or offices.