

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY STATEMENT

Evaluation of Concerns Related to Animal Care and Use

The *Animal Welfare Act* and the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* specifically note that one function of the IACUC shall be the review of all concerns involving the care and use of laboratory animals. The AWA goes on to say that an investigation (if necessary) may be conducted.

Concerns may be voiced as complaints or reports of noncompliance. Individuals may make an anonymous report through the Hotline: http://iacuc.umc.edu/Hotline_noncompliance.html. Typically, these concerns are brought to a member of the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian or the IACUC Chair.

An investigation is conducted by a subcommittee appointed by the Chair, that generally is comprised of the IACUC Chair and Attending Veterinarian as well as other IACUC members as warranted. The concern is either substantiated or refuted. If refuted, the person voicing the concern (if known) is informed of the findings. If substantiated, the matter goes before the full IACUC for review. In all cases, the review should include approaches to prevent recurrence.

Further, any person(s) making an allegation or voicing a concern “shall not be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for reporting violations of any regulation or standards” [Animal Welfare Act 9 CFR, 2.32(4)]

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