



Policy and Guidance on Reuse of Animals used for Research or Instruction

The University of Georgia IACUC endorses and promotes the ethical use of animals in research and instruction. Fundamental to the ethical use of animals is the application of the ethical principles of Refinement, Replacement, and Reduction, as described by Russell and Burch. The principle Reduction is defined as utilizing means which reduce the number of animals used. This includes, for example, the use of more robust statistical measures, reducing variability, and the appropriate reuse of animals. Reuse of animals is defined as the sequential use of the same animal(s) for unrelated experiments, either within a single IACUC protocol, or on more than 1 protocol

The ethical principle of Reduction must be balanced with the principle Refinement, and the reuse of animals should not increase pain or distress. Hence, reuse of animals is subject to IACUC oversight.

This policy clarifies the requirements for reuse of vertebrate animals to ensure their humane care and use, and to ensure compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy.

Requirements for reuse within a protocol

Within a single protocol, the reuse of animals for research related purposes must be described, including a clear outline of what, and how many, experimental procedures an animal will experience.

If reuse of animals is not described in the original AUP, an amendment adding reuse must be reviewed and approved before the reuse can occur.

Requirements for reuse on more than 1 protocol/transfer to another, unrelated research project

The UGA IACUC requires that protocol transfers of animals are documented and approved prior to transfer. Approval consists of review and sign-off by the Attending Veterinarian or designee, to ensure that animals are not exposed to excessive potential for pain and distress.

Animals included in the ANOPs system:

Transfer requests are made via ANOPs. The request should provide details about what procedures have already been performed on the animal, and what procedures are planned to be performed on the new protocol. The Attending Veterinarian or designee will review requests in ANOPs. The Attending Veterinarian or designee may refer a request to an IACUC subcommittee at their discretion.

