

Policy on Preservation of Animals Affected by a Disastrous Event

PHS Policy states that institutions receiving federal funds have an obligation to protect the federal investment in research by exercising due diligence. This protection covers research animals, personnel, facilities, and research data. Therefore, The UGA Animal Care and Use Program is required to have a "Disaster/Contingency Plan," including a method for preserving animals that are necessary for critical research or are irreplaceable.

The IACUC encourages all investigators using animals for research to protect and insure their animals and work. Investigators working on federal or s
ownership of UGA , regardless of their degree of importance to ongoing research or instruction .

Preservation of Irreplaceable Animals and Animals Necessary for Critical Research

During a disastrous event, OACU and URAR will work with local, state, and federal authorities as applicable to preserve animal health and welfare. Research projects may be stopped if there is a prolonged period of physical plant or staff outage. Every effort will be made to preserve animal lives, including transportation of animals to alternative housing if their current location is not suitable for animal housing. Disasters that create a situation in which all animals cannot be preserved necessitate

Criteria Incorporated into Priorities for Response

A disastrous event is complex, and many factors will affect the response. If all animals cannot be preserved, some general criteria will be incorporated into the response. These criteria are identified in collaboration with the URAR veterinarians and staff, investigators, and appropriate stake holders.

- Animal previously identified and marked as irreplaceable / necessary for critical research will have priority over similar animals that have not been previously identified.
- If feasible, URAR veterinarians and staff will attempt to contact the researchers of animals which are not identified, to determine which animals should be prioritized. This may not be possible, depending on the situation, so prior labeling of animals is highly recommended.
- Animals housed in BSL3 containment must not be moved out of containment, and must be euthanized within containment if housing conditions are not adequate for their well-being.

For more information, please see the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare article "[Who Ya Gonna Call?](#)"