

<b>Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Program - UTEP</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Principal Investigator Responsibilities	
<b>Policy#:</b> 023	<b>Date in Effect:</b> 23 May 2022
<b>Version #:</b> B	<b>Rev Date:</b> 28 April 2025
<b>In Effect</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rescinded</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Rescinded:</b>

**A) RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of all personnel conducting research involving the use of animals at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to abide by this policy in order to ensure appropriate animal welfare. It is the responsibility of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to review for approval, properly justified requests for an exception to this policy.

**B) BACKGROUND**

The Principal Investigator is ultimately responsible for assuring compliance with applicable university IACUC policies and procedures, the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the National Institute of Health, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and/or the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching. Although the PI may delegate tasks to members of his/her research team, s/he retains the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the study

**C) POLICY**

All categories of compensated faculty members may serve as PI. Visiting faculty, adjunct faculty, lecturers, and instructors, are not permitted to serve as a PI but may serve as co-investigators. Any UTEP faculty and staff may serve in this role if they have appropriate qualifications to conduct the research, as determined by the IACUC.

A faculty member who is ultimately responsible for the oversight of the research being conducted but will not physically be handling or manipulating animals must allocate animal responsibility to an animal user faculty Co-Investigator to help facilitate training of animal procedures in the lab. The Co-Investigator does not have the overall responsibility and authority of the PI, however, may be responsible for training and overseeing animal experiments.

The PI is required to:

- 1) Submit a protocol for all research and/or teaching involving vertebrate animals to the Committee for review and approval. Research and/or teaching cannot begin until all requested changes or clarifications are described in the revised protocol and the protocol receives approval.
- 2) Conduct the study in accordance with the written protocol approved by UTEP IACUC.
- 3) Submit an amendment request for all proposed protocol modifications before any changes are initiated.
- 4) Submit a new protocol for work that will continue beyond the three year (with annual review) approval period.
- 5) Ensure that all members of the research team have access to the IACUC-approved protocol for which they are listed as personnel, that they read and understand the IACUC protocol, and that work does not commence until IACUC approval is received.
- 6) Ensure that all members of the research team are adequately trained, both initially and throughout the course of the study. This includes students and other trainees, visiting scientists, and volunteers who are directly involved with the project.
- 7) Work closely with the UTEP veterinarians for animal care issues, especially if complications arise. In the case of a pressing health problem, if the responsible person (e.g., investigator) is not available, the LARC veterinary staff have the authority to treat the animal, remove it from the experiment, institute appropriate measures to relieve severe pain or distress, or perform euthanasia if necessary.

- 8) Comply with all IACUC policies, procedures, decisions, conditions and requirements.
- 9) Maintain regular oversight of the research protocols, research animals and research staff.

<b>Review History</b>	
<b>Revision Version:</b>	<b>Revision Date:</b>
A	21 November 2014
B	28 April 2025