ANIMAL EYE CONSULTANTS OF IOWA

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa ***Instituti mittee***	
Policy #18	**"Adoption of Research and Teaching Animals"**
Approval Date: 3/14/2024 (Replacing Version 7/23/2020)	

A. Purpose

This policy covers the adoption protocol of select Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa-owned animals (see "C. Policy "and "D. Suitability & Veterinary Examination", below) that have completed prior research and teaching functions and who can be transferred for private companion animal purposes. This policy does not cover the sale of agricultural animals for traditional food/fiber use, the transfer to and use by other institutions for research purposes, or the transfer of intentionally genetically altered (IGA) animals. Disposition of agricultural animals by sale/auction is covered in more detail in IACUC Policy 5.

B. Background Information

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa?s Animal Care and Use Program has had a long history of transferring former research and teaching animals to private owners. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) supports this practice for animals meeting the conditions described in this policy to individuals/entities that have demonstrated an ability to properly care for the animals.

Iowa?s Homes for Heroes ACT RCW18.92 requires that dogs and cats be offered for adoption if they are deemed suitable for adoption at the conclusion of the research and teaching activity.

C. Policy

An animal that has participated in research or teaching may be transferred at the conclusion of the activity to a private individual as a companion animal provided the animal is in good health, has an expectation for a normal quality of life, and has a suitable temperament. Per the Homes for Heroes Act, higher education institutions must make a reasonable effort to rehome adoptable dogs and cats once their service is complete.

All of the following requirements must be met prior to transfer to private ownership:

1) The primary investigator must have the "transfer to private individual" designation approved by the IACUC in the Animal Subjects Approval Form (ASAF).
2) The animal(s) is no longer needed for Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa-based research or teaching activities.
3) The animal(s) must meet the suitability requirements described in section D.
4) All required departmental and/or college-level approvals have been obtained.
5) The health history and temperament of the animal has been reviewed by the AEC Attending Veterinarian and/or their designee and determined to be appropriate for private ownership.
6) The potential new private owner has provided evidence of suitable housing, husbandry, companionship, and veterinary care for life-long care of the animal.
7) The new private owner assumes full responsibility for the adopted animal and relinquishes AEC of responsibility for the animal once the transfer has occurred.

The following statement is included in the transfer documentation for signature.

AEC MAKES NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE OF THE ADOPTED ANIMAL AS A PRIVATLY-OWNED COMPANION ANIMAL. AEC MAKES NO WARRANTY THAT THE DISCLOSURE IN THIS AGREEMENT DOES IN FACT STATE EVERY HEALTH OR BEHAVIOR PROBLEM OF THE ADOPTED ANIMAL. IN NO EVENT SHALL AEC BE LIABLE FOR ANY COSTS OR DAMAGES, INCLUDING INDIRECT, SPECIAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES WITH RESPECT TO THE ADOPTED ANIMAL OR FUTURE TRANSER OF OWNERSHIP TO ANOTHER PRIVATE PARTY BY THE ADOPTING OWNER.

D. Suitability Assessment & Veterinary Examination by the AEC Attending Veterinarian or Designated Veterinarian

The AEC Attending Veterinarian or designee is responsible for making the final determination on whether an animal(s) is suitable for adoption based upon the research history, the animal's behavior, and the physical examination findings.

The animal(s) will be evaluated to ensure they are in adequately good health and have the appropriate temperament to facilitate an expected normal quality of life as a companion animal under private ownership.

In addition to providing a safe and humane living environment for the adopted animal, the adopting private party is expected to also provide regular veterinary care which includes regular animal health and welfare evaluations and recommended vaccinations.

The adopting party understands the legal requirement for dogs, cats, and ferrets to be vaccinated for rabies (other conditions may apply depending on state of residency). As a condition of adoption, the AEC IACUC requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets must be neutered before being released to the adopter. Other species may also require neutering. Neutering for the purposes of adoption will be considered a clinical procedure and does not need to be described in the ASAF the animals are coming from.

Some animals are not available for adoption because university, state and federal policies and regulations prohibit private ownership or donation of certain species. Examples include, but are not limited to; intentionally genetically altered animals, animals experimentally infected with a zoonotic disease, wild caught animals, species considered by the State of Washington to be invasive (e.g. xenopus), or dangerous animals (e.g bears). Refer to IACUC Policy 5 for disposition of these animals.

E. Adopter

Adopters must be willing and able to accept legal and financial responsibility, in writing, for the life-long care of the animal, including veterinary care. Once an animal is adopted and leaves AEC, legal ownership is transferred to the adopting. AEC is under no obligation to accept return of the animal if offered back to AEC through sale or donation.

Potential adopters must be willing to participate in an interview with the AEC Attending Veterinarian or designee prior to approval of transfer.

Adopter must be willing to agree in writing that the animals will not be used for food (human or animal).

The adopter is responsible for providing the information required on the AEC Transfer of Animal Ownership Form.

Adopters will be educated about the animal's health status and other pertinent information during the review process and will be provided with a written record of the animal's relevant health history upon transfer.

The release of an animal to a third-party entity (i.e shelter, rescue or sanctuary) will be considered by the AV or designee on a case-by-case basis. A site visit of the third-party entity may be required prior to transfer.

F. Records

The following records must be kept for each adoption and maintained by the facility for 3 years from the disposition date.

1) AEC Transfer of Animal Ownership Form
2) APHIS form 7006 "Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats" is required for all dog and cat adoptions.
3) APHIS form 7020 "Record of Acquisition, Disposition or Transport of Animals (Other than Dogs and Cats)" is required for all other Animal Welfare Act covered species.
4) A medical record summary with the animals' health status and other pertinent information will be available for review by any potential adopters and a copy provided at the time of ownership transfer. Copies of the adopted animal's medical record can also be requested to be sent to the designated primary care veterinarian selected by private owner.

G. Resources

1. ACLAM Position Statement on Adoption of Research Animals (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5710161/)
2. USDA Animal Welfare Act

3. AVMA Policy “Research Dogs and Cats Adoption” https://www.avma.org/policies/research-dogs-and-cats-adoption
4. OLAW FAQ F11 https://olaw.nih.gov/guidance/faqs
5. Iowa Senate Bill 5212 Adoption of Dogs and Cats—Science or Research Facilities