ANIMAL EYE CONSULTANTS OF IOWA

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa	
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	
Policy #21	**"Tissue Use Policy"**
Approval Date: 4/22/2025 (Replacing Version 1/25/2022)	

A. Purpose

The intent of this policy is to describe when the use of animal tissue requires IACUC review and approval or is exempt from IACUC review. It also describes the process for obtaining an exemption letter for activities not requiring IACUC approval.

B. Background

The IACUC is charged with the oversight of live animals used in research and teaching activities. The use of animal tissues that were originally collected for purposes unrelated to the research or teaching activity or are obtained from animals euthanized for other purposes generally falls outside the scope of the IACUC's responsibility. For purposes of this policy, tissue includes biopsies, cells, embryos, organs, body fluids such as blood, semen, etc.

C. Policy

When vertebrate animals and/or cephalopods are euthanized for the purpose of obtaining tissue or as training for a project specific manipulation(s) (with or without subsequent euthanasia), an approved AEC IACUC protocol is required through the IACUC online system. For example, a project involving bovine estrus synchronization and embryo/oocyte collection for research and not production purposes, or an animal receiving heparin treatment prior to euthanasia and tissue collection would require IACUC approval.

An IACUC approved ASAF is not required for research or teaching activities that utilize tissue that was originally obtained for unrelated purposes or collected from animals

euthanized for another purpose (e.g., clinical purposes or euthanized under another approved ASAF). Some examples would include:

- The use of tissue obtained from a slaughter facility. For USDA FSIS slaughterhouse facilities please see References below for form.
- Purchasing commercially available animal tissue. See IACUC Policy #16 for information on obtaining commercially available vs. custom antibodies form vendors.
- Obtaining tissue from procedures that were performed for clinical purposes (e.g., tumors removed for clinical purpose, reproductive tissue collected after routine spay/neuter, or residual blood or serum that was originally collected for clinical diagnostic purposes)
- Collection of animal tissue after an animal has been euthanized for clinical reasons or for another approved research protocol.

For information on what qualifies as an exemption for projects utilizing privately owned animals or free-living wildlife (field studies), please view IACUC Policy #7 and IACUC Policy #40 respectively. For any potentially exempt project, please reach out to the Animal Welfare Program (AWP) office at IACUC@animal-eye-iowa.com for final determination of the exemption status before the project begins.

D. Review Process

It is highly recommended that Researchers/Instructors submit a summary of the tissue research or teaching activity prior to the start of the project to the AWP office at IACUC@animal-eye-iowa.com for review and determination.

This review of tissue use will be conducted by the AWP staff and may include consultation with a member of the campus veterinary staff or IACUC Chair. Review shall focus on two key issues that distinguish exempt tissue use from animal use requiring ASAF submission and IACUC approval:

1. Verification that the animals are not manipulated for the purposes of the investigator/instructor who is requesting the tissue. For example, animals cannot be fed a special diet prior to euthanasia for tissue. If animals are

manipulated prior to euthanasia or sample collection, a full ASAF must be submitted by the investigator/instructor.

2. Animals cannot be euthanized specifically to generate tissues for research or teaching purposes without an approved ASAF.

The Researchers/Instructors should provide training to staff on proper tissue handling and any zoonotic disease concerns. Zoonoses fact sheets for specific species can be found at https://animal-eye-iowa.com/forms/zoonoses/.

If it is determined that the work is exempt from IACUC review, a letter stating why this tissue use is exempt from IACUC review will be provided to the investigator/instructor. This can be provided to funding agencies or publishers who may ask about IACUC oversight and tissue use, as well as used for dissertation purposes.

If an exemption letter is written to cover a project, it will be documented in MyResearch through creation of a Tissue-Use/Exempt ASAF where the project will be described and the exemption letter attached. These ASAFs are administratively created, approved, and maintained by the AWP Staff. The faculty providing oversight of the exempt project will be listed as the PI of the ASAF and any other involved personnel will be listed as Co-Investigators.

Please contact the Animal Welfare Program office at IACUC@animal-eye-iowa.com with any questions regarding this process or to inquire if your project is IACUC exempt.

E. References

- USDA FSIS slaughterhouse facilities form: http://ib.berkeley.edu/courses/ib133/FormsFolder/FSIS%206700-2%20Application%20and%20Permit%20to%20Obtain%20Specimens%20from%20Official%20Establishments_v7.pdf

- PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals https://olaw.nih.gov/faqs#/guidance/faqs?anchor=questionhttps://olaw.nih.gov/guidance/faqs