ANIMAL EYE CONSULTANTS OF IOWA

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa *Instituti* *mittee*	
Policy #17	**"Instructional Animal Use"**
Approval Date: 4/9/2025 (Replacing version: 3/29/2022)	

A. Purpose

This policy describes the AEC IACUC review requirements and oversight for animals used in educational settings.

B. Background

The AEC IACUC is charged with overseeing research and teaching activities involving the use of live animals, which includes reviewing and approving protocols for the use of animals in research and teaching. While the objectives of teaching activities differ from research protocols, the same basic principles are applied during the IACUC review process (AEC IACUC Policy #2).

C. Policy

Proposals for Instructional Animal Use must be approved by the AEC IACUC prior to using any animals for teaching or instructional activities. Instructors acting as course directors are responsible for preparing a Teaching Animal Subjects Approval Form (ASAF) with a clear justification from an educational perspective for the use of animals in the course. Teaching ASAFs may also be used to cover other educational and outreach activities that are not included in a course, such as club teaching activities.

Instructional Animal Use Protocol Basics: Course directors/instructors should allow ample time for IACUC review prior to animal acquisition/use for the course or educational/outreach activity, including enough time for revisions in response to the review process.

Preparation & Submission: Instructors acting as course directors are responsible for preparing instructional animal use ASAFs as the Principal Investigator (PI) using the MyResearch online submission system (please view AEC IACUC Policy #22 for additional information). The online teaching ASAF form guides PIs through needed information related to the subsequent review process. PIs should read each question thoroughly and follow the system prompts to ensure completeness of their submission. The ASAF asks for the PI to:

1. Identify all personnel who handle animals during proposed use. If students will handle animals, indicate ways in which they are trained and supervised to minimize animal distress and ensure adequate zoonoses awareness (see #4). Students participating in the course are not required to be listed on the ASAF or complete the online animal use training, but all personnel in supervisory roles **must** complete IACUC training and be listed on the ASAF, including Teaching Assistants, Lab Staff and others. Please view IACUC Policy #20: for additional information.
3. Provide instructional materials in support of the proposal, including the syllabus or schedule of the course/training activity. AEC mandates that all training syllabi have clearly stated student learning outcomes and coupled assessment plans included in the syllabus materials. The use of animals in meeting these student learning outcomes and assessments of learning should be clearly justified in the ASAF.
4. Provide a description of how students are trained to safely work with animals, including what hazard/risk information (allergy, zoonosis, injury) is provided and what biosafety controls are used. The zoonoses fact sheets can be used as a resource and are available online.
5. Include the justification from an educational perspective for the use of animals in the course or educational activity. For example, what are the educational alternatives to animal use in meeting these objectives? What logic or evidence supports the required use of animals over the alternatives in these training contexts?
6. If privately owned animals will be used (student-owned, client-owned, etc.), then a client consent or owner enrollment form must be provided. In some cases, this form may have to be reviewed by the CVM Clinical Studies Coordinator. A template client consent form can be found on the IACUC Website. AEC IACUC Policy #7 can be viewed for additional information regarding the use of privately owned animals.

a. The use of Shelter Animals in research and teaching activities requires additional oversight. If shelter animals will be used for a project, please view IACUC Policy #19 for additional information.

Review of Instructional Animal Use Protocols: All animal use proposals are reviewed by the IACUC to ensure animal well-being using the guiding principles above. Instructional animal use proposals are reviewed with the same criteria as research proposals while considering the educational component. IACUC Policy #2 can be viewed for additional information on the IACUC review process.

D. Resources

The AEC IACUC website includes a broad range of resources and information that is available for all instructors and researchers. Visit https://animal-eye-iowa.com/forms for information on:

1. Training material related to zoonosis and zoonotic disease associated with the species used (AEC IACUC Zoonoses webpage).
2. Additional IACUC policies, guidelines, and SOPs.
3. Information on reporting adverse/unanticipated events or animal welfare concerns for animals used is research or teaching.

In addition, instructors or course coordinators are encouraged to discuss their plans with the AEC Veterinary Staff (animaleyeiowa@gmail.com) or the Animal Welfare Program (IACUC@animal-eye-iowa.com) prior to ASAF submission.