ANIMAL EYE CONSULTANTS OF IOWA

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa ***Instituti mittee***	
Policy #3	**"Veterinary Care of Animals by Veterinary Researchers and Veterinary Faculty"**
Approval Date: 2/26/2024 (Replacing Version 3/12/2021)	

A. Purpose

This policy statement by the AEC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is intended to allow veterinarians other than the AEC Veterinary Staff (AEC) to directly deliver veterinary care. This policy applies to all locations where AEC-owned animals are housed. Additional information relating to adequate veterinary care may be found in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations, the Guide for The Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine position statement on adequate veterinary care in laboratory animals.

B. Background

AEC's IACUC is charged to verify that "Adequate Veterinary Care" will be provided for all research and teaching animals. The term "Adequate Veterinary Care" is defined in a series of laws, regulations, and policy statements issued by a variety of public and private agencies. Programs of adequate veterinary care involve disease detection and surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and resolution; consultation with animal users; training; evaluation of animal vendors; assessment of pre- and post-operative care; and provision of weekend and holiday care for the animals. Programs of veterinary care must be documentable to regulatory agencies. Veterinarians involved may be veterinarian researchers or instructors, College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) faculty or staff veterinarians, private or government (USDA/Fish & Wildlife)-employed practitioners, or the AEC veterinary staff.

Each campus animal facility or project has a veterinarian or veterinary service that provides veterinary care for animals. For example, the AEC veterinary staff provide clinical services for the majority of the facilities that house traditional laboratory animal

species, while the CVM faculty or staff veterinarians provide clinical services for the Agricultural Animal Centers. Many campus researchers and instructors are also veterinarians. In some cases, these veterinarians choose to deliver full or partial veterinary care, such as treatment of sick animals and post-operative care, for animals on their own protocols. These individuals are qualified to administer such care.

C. Policy

Adequate veterinary care is an institutional responsibility. The AEC (the Attending Veterinarian of record) under the federal Animal Welfare Act has final responsibility to ensure that campus programs of veterinary care are adequate. The Authority of the Attending Veterinarian is defined in BPPM 45.42.

Colleges, Departments and individual investigators may designate specific veterinarians and/or veterinary services to have full or partial responsibility for veterinary care for a specific project, unit, or facility. These veterinarians and services have statutory responsibilities under delegated authority from the Attending Veterinarian. Qualified veterinarian-researchers/instructors who wish to directly provide veterinary care for their own animals may do so, provided they work in close association with the Attending Veterinarian and follow both AEC and federal policies associated with the provision of veterinary care. It can be considered a potential conflict of interest by regulatory agencies when veterinarian-researchers provide veterinary care to their own research animals. Therefore, it is critical that the Attending Veterinarian is informed of all abnormal conditions observed and the provision of care.

Irrespective of which veterinarian or veterinary service is providing care, the following requirements apply:

1. If a private veterinarian (or clinic) is being listed on a protocol, the PI should make the individual aware that they have been listed on the protocol and that the protocol is subject to public records requests.
2. The Attending Veterinarian & AEC designees must have access to animals and animal medical records.
3. AEC must be informed in a timely manner of **all deviations from normal health and behavior in animals** at AEC by email, phone call and/or the AEC Animal Health Database. Use the Notification Protocol detailed at the IACUC website.

For access and training on the use of the AEC Animal Health Database, please the AEC website .

4. If the health problem is not listed on an AEC- or IACUC-approved SOP or protocol, animal care personnel must report abnormal animals to the designated veterinary service provider and report to AEC via the health database, email or phone (e.g., to the veterinarian-researcher/instructor, CVM faculty or staff veterinarians, private or government-employed practitioner, or AEC) to assess and develop a medical treatment plan.
5. All medical assessments, diagnostic tests, and treatment plans must be documented in the animal health record as described in AEC IACUC Policy #4 on Animal Care and Medical Records for Research and Teaching Animals.

D. Resources

1. USDA Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations
2. AEC IACUC Policy #4 on Animal Care and Medical Records for Research and Teaching Animals for guidance on animal medical record requirements
3. USDA Inspection Checklist - Chapter 6 Veterinary Care Requirements for Licenses https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal-Care-Inspection-Guide.pdf
4. Policy statement by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine regarding adequate veterinary care
5. National Research Council, 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 8th Edition. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC.
6. AAALAC position statement, which can be found at: https://www.aaalac.org/accreditation-program/position-statements/#vetcare
7. AEC BPPM 45.42 Authority of the Attending Veterinarian