

<b>University of Tennessee at Chattanooga</b> <b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b> <b>Standard Operating Procedures</b>		
<b>Effective Date: 08/21/2018</b> <b>Revised Date: 04/07/2025</b>	<b>TITLE:</b> <b>IACUC SOP #2: Authority of</b> <b>the Attending Veterinarian</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>

## **A PURPOSE**

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) is responsible for overseeing the use of animals and animal facilities, and for the review of basic science and biomedical research and teaching activities involving animals conducted at, or in association with UTC. The IACUC ensures that animal care and use is in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations. This policy describes the authority of the Attending Veterinarian (AV).

## **B COVERED PARTIES**

This policy covers all animals on UTC premises used for research, teaching, training, breeding, and related activities, hereinafter referred to collectively as “activities”, and is applicable to all persons responsible for conducting activities involving live vertebrate animals at or under the auspices of UTC.

## **C POLICY**

Adequate veterinary medical care is essential to support a comprehensive animal care and use program that ensures the health and well-being of animals. It is the responsibility of the Attending Veterinarian (AV) to provide veterinary review of protocols and to oversee the adequacy of all aspects of animal care and use for all animals. The University has empowered the AV with full authority to provide medical care or euthanasia, at his/her discretion, to animals on UTC premises.

The duties of the AV may be shared or delegated to another veterinarian recommended by the AV (called an “alternate veterinarian”) who reports directly to the AV. This alternate veterinarian will serve as a proxy voting member of the committee when the attending veterinarian is not in attendance or is otherwise unavailable. However, it remains the responsibility of the AV to ensure program compliance with federal regulations and institutional policy.

The AV (or alternate veterinarian) has unrestricted access to all areas where animals are used or housed, and is authorized to immediately suspend research activities that are inconsistent with acceptable research conduct or for protocol deviations that have a negative impact on the animal. The AV will promptly forward incidents to the IACUC for further review.

The AV (or alternate veterinarian) will make every reasonable attempt to consult the Principal Investigator prior to implementing veterinary care actions, however in emergent situations the AV is not required to obtain approval from the PI or other parties to provide appropriate care in an expedited fashion, if such actions are deemed necessary by the AV to protect the interests of the animal or the integrity of the University’s animal care program. In such cases, the AV will notify the PI as soon as reasonably practicable.

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If the responsible research staff member and the AV (or alternate veterinarian) are not in agreement regarding the need for medical treatment or euthanasia, the AV (or alternate veterinarian) has authority to act to protect the health and well-being of the animal and will make the final decision based on his/her medical judgment.

#### **D CONTACT**

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#### **E LINKS**

<http://www.utc.edu/research-integrity/institutional-animal-care-use-committee/>

<http://www.utc.edu/research-integrity/pdfs/iacuc-bylaws.pdf>

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-Care-and-Use-of-Laboratory-Animals.pdf>

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/AC\\_BlueBook\\_AWA\\_FINAL\\_2017\\_508comp.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/AC_BlueBook_AWA_FINAL_2017_508comp.pdf)