



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All University Personnel Involved in Research or Teaching Involving the Use of Animals

From: Jennifer L. Mnookin  
Chancellor

Date: August 29, 2022

Re: UW–Madison Policy Relating to the Authority of Research Animal Veterinarians

The purpose of this memo is to reiterate the campus policy with respect to veterinary authority. The official campus policy on the authority of research animal veterinarians is defined in the attached policy statement.

This policy supersedes any local policies or practices related to the authority of campus research animal veterinarians. Compliance with this policy is required of all campus investigators and their staff, facility managers, animal care supervisors, animal research technicians, all departments, college units, IACUCs and animal facilities as a condition for retaining the privilege to work with animals at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. No individual or unit using animals for research or teaching at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is exempt from this policy.

**University Policy on Veterinary Authority**

The Animal Welfare Act (CFR 9 § 2.33.a.2) stipulates, "Each research facility shall ensure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use." The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (which covers animal research funded by the National Institutes of Health) states, "The institution must provide the AV [attending veterinarian] with sufficient authority, including access to all animals, and resources to manage the program of veterinary care." In keeping with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and the Guide, research animal veterinarians at the University of Wisconsin–Madison have the authority to require actions that in their professional judgment are necessary to:

- Assure that animal facilities and animal husbandry (including physical environment, environmental enrichment, caging, nutrition, and population management) are adequate to ensure an appropriate level of animal care.
- Assure that personnel are appropriately trained in the provision of animal care and the conduct of approved research or teaching involving animals

**Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin**

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- Assure that procedures for animal procurement and transportation are appropriate and provide oversight for quarantine and stabilization of animals.
- Assure the presence and appropriate use of methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, including those that may be associated with research or teaching. This includes: the development and use of effective channels of communication among the veterinarians, animal care staff, and research staff; the establishment of appropriate health monitoring practices; and the maintenance of adequate and accessible medical, husbandry, and teaching records. This provision also requires that research animal veterinarians have the authority to direct and/or provide for appropriate medical care, including euthanasia, as necessary and consistent with standard veterinary practice.
- Assure that there are mechanisms of direct and frequent communication regarding daily observations of animals, so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the veterinarian.
- Assure the provision of adequate pre- and post-procedural animal care is in accordance with current established veterinary medical and nursing procedures.
- Assure that any animal pain and distress is managed in accordance with standard veterinary practice.

Furthermore, research animal veterinarians are authorized to intercede in any activity involving the use of animals for research and teaching purposes, including the removal of animals from study, which in their judgment jeopardizes animal welfare or compliance with federal or university policies. This includes the authority to enforce existing rules and policies that involve any portion of the program of animal care and use, such as various safety policies (e.g., proper BSL-2 procedures, adequate PPE), and individual facility standard operating procedures (e.g., order of entry into rooms in a facility).