Guideline on Animal Re-Use

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements of re-use of vertebrate research animals, including those which have undergone a previous experimental procedure, retired breeding colony animals, and animals used in training and research. The definition of ‘re-use’ is the sequential use of the same animals(s) for unrelated experiments.

1. If you intend to make animals on your protocol available for re-use on other protocols, you must state such on your approved protocol. All animal re-use must be pre-approved by the IACUC.

2. The following types of transfers between protocols require notification of DLAR and the completion of a Transfer Form:
   a. Healthy experimentally naïve animals (i.e., excess from shipments, unused offspring from breeding colonies)
   b. Retired breeders
   c. Animals transferred from one protocol to another for the sole purpose of immediate euthanasia.
   d. Animals that have been used for a simple experimental procedure (i.e., single blood, injection of control vehicle or saline)—this must be discussed with DLAR and described on the Transfer Form.

3. Animals that have undergone complex experimental procedures (i.e., surgeries, experimental manipulations), require notification of DLAR, approval from the IACUC and the completion of a transfer form.

4. For USDA-covered species (i.e., rabbits, guinea pigs, pigs, hamsters, etc.), a transfer that would involve an animal having multiple survival surgeries across protocols requires approval by the USDA.

References