



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO  
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT: Animal Reuse

DATE: February 19, 2025

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**Guideline on the Reuse of Research Animals**

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the requirements for reuse of research animals. The definition of reuse is the sequential use of the same animal(s) for unrelated purposes. If the well-being of the animal(s) has been compromised, it should NOT be re-used on another protocol unless previously approved by the IACUC. Transfers must be requested by submitting a completed Animal Transfer Form to the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR).

Non-USDA covered species

Naïve animals:

1. Any approved IACUC protocol may offer healthy experimentally naïve animals (i.e., excess from shipments, unused offspring from breeding colonies) to other protocols **as long as the receiving protocol is approved for that species and strain.**
  - a. These transfers are approved by DLAR, but further review by the IACUC may be required based on the transfer request.

Reuse:

1. **Reuse** of animals on other protocols must be clearly described in both the receiving and transferring protocols and must be pre-approved by the IACUC (which will be confirmed by DLAR).
  - a. The receiving protocol must list the transferring protocol as a source.
  - b. The transferring protocol must have the receiving protocol as a destination.
  - c. Examples include:
    - i. Animals previously used for breeding.
    - ii. Animals transferred from one protocol to another for the sole purpose of immediate euthanasia.
    - iii. Animals transferred for the sole purpose of use in DLAR training.
2. The following are examples of transfers that **may require additional review** by the IACUC and the veterinarian prior to approval:
  - a. Animals that have been used for non-invasive experimental procedure/s (i.e., blood draw, injection of control vehicle or saline).
  - b. Animals that have undergone experimental procedures (i.e., surgeries, experimental manipulations), transferred to another protocol for the purpose of a non-survival procedure.

- c. Animals that have undergone experimental procedures (i.e., surgeries, experimental manipulations), transferred to another protocol for the purpose of a survival procedure.

USDA-covered species (i.e., rabbits, voles, etc.)

1. **All transfers require additional review** by the IACUC and the veterinarian.
  - a. A transfer that would involve an animal having multiple survival surgeries across protocols requires approval by the USDA.

References

1. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. National Research Council Committee for the Update of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US).