



THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Reporting Animal Concerns and Whistleblowers

DATE: February 19, 2025

Reporting Animal Concerns and Whistleblower Guideline

The University of Toledo is committed to the humane care and use of live vertebrate animals used in research. The use of live vertebrate animals in this way is a privilege and carries with it the responsibility to follow applicable laws, policies, and procedures developed by the federal government and the Institution. These basic rules can be found in the *ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (NRC 2011), and the *PHS Policy for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

If you have concerns or questions involving laboratory animals, their human handlers, adherence to approved protocols, or any related matter, we encourage you to report such instances to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (Chair, [Dr. Lauren Koch](#) 419-383-4520; Vice Chair, [Dr. Jyl Matson](#) 419-383-3971), Director of Research Compliance ([Dr. Mahesh Pillai](#) 419-383-4251), or the Attending Veterinarian ([Dr. Lisa Root](#) 419-383-4314).

Please provide the following information when reporting concerns:

1. Describe the incident or concern.
2. Indicate whether you witnessed the incident yourself
3. When and where the incident occurred
4. In which animal facility and/or investigator laboratory the incident occurred
5. Whether you have reported the incident or concern to anyone else and what steps/actions may have already been taken

All complaints will be reviewed and investigated as necessary. You may make your complaint anonymously if you choose using this link. All concerns and complaints will be dealt with confidentially. It is important for you to know that the regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act, federal regulations, and Ohio state law provide protection for facility employees, committee members, and laboratory personnel against discrimination or reprisal for reporting animal welfare concerns or non-compliance with approved protocols or federal regulations (i.e., whistleblower protections).