

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

Animal Adoption Policy

Purpose: Research animals that were used as control animals or were subjects in relatively benign experiments may be adopted by University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) employees or individuals approved by the IACUC and UTA Attending Veterinarian (AV). This policy will outline the procedures necessary to complete the adoption process.

Responsibilities and Scope: The AV (or designee) is responsible for examining the animal, reviewing the clinical record, and discussing with the prospective owner any potential health concerns that previous usage may have created. The IACUC is responsible for reviewing the protocol and considering the suitability of the animal for adoption based on prior usage for research purposes. Upon health clearance by the AV, the IACUC will make the final determination to allow an animal adoption.

Procedures:

1) Initiation of Adoption.

- a) The following parties may request an adoption of a research animal:
 - i) **Research laboratory.** The research laboratory may request adoption since they are most aware of the timeline of the animal's study life.
 - ii) **Animal Care Facility staff.** Because Animal Care Facility (ACF) staff may have intimate knowledge of an animal's research history and the ending of a study, they may also inquire about an animal being adopted.
 - iii) **UTA employee.** If a UTA employee is notified by the research laboratory or ACF staff that a particular animal may be adoptable, then he/she may inquire about an adoption.
 - iv) **IACUC.** The IACUC may determine during regular review of animal research that animals are suitable candidates for adoption. IACUC members may also inquire about an adoption.
- b) Upon receiving an official request, the AV will initiate a review of the animal's records and conduct a physical examination and temperament assessment.
- c) Availability of animals for adoption is communicated by "word of mouth." No written or published advertisements will be authorized. Because of the sensitivity of animal research, no direct inquiries concerning adoption from the general public will be considered.

2) Review of Clinical History and Examination.

- a) The AV will review the research protocol and the animal's clinical record to identify what type of procedure (if any) was performed on the animal(s).
 - i) The animal eligible for adoption has not experienced any manipulation that has altered permanently its anatomical, physiological, metabolic, or locomotor functions. In addition, no hazardous agents, including recombinant DNA, hazardous pathogens, chemicals, or drugs were used in the animal, and it must have no sign of compromised health, either natural or experimentally derived.
 - ii) Animals that have undergone invasive procedures typically will not be considered

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- iii) suitable for adoption. The IACUC may approve a deviation from this standard if the procedure is considered typical among animals kept as pets (i.e. implantation of an identification microchip).
 - iv) Transgenic animals typically will not be considered suitable for adoption.
 - v) The AV will assess the animal's temperament to determine if it is suitable for adoption, or to make specific recommendations for placement situations (i.e. no children, no other pets, food aggressive, etc.).
- b) The AV will report the results of the assessment to the IACUC and make a recommendation for the possibility of adoption. Although the good health of an animal is a prerequisite for adoption, UTA will not guarantee the health or temperament of adopted animals.
 - c) In the case of wild-caught animals, the IACUC will research federal and local regulations regarding private ownership of the species in question.
 - d) The IACUC will make the final determination if the animal would make a reasonable adoption candidate based on the research history of the animal and on any findings of the AV. In cases where waiting until the next IACUC meeting for a determination would create an immediate apparent hazard for the animal, the decision to permit adoption may be made by the IACUC Chair, in consultation with the AV.
 - e) Once the IACUC approves the adoption, the Institutional Official will sign the Animal Adoption Agreement to authorize the transfer of property from UTA to the Adopting Owner. In the case of animals that were transferred to UTA from another institution under the terms of a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA), the MTA will be reviewed to ensure that terms and conditions do not prohibit adoption.

3) Permanent Record.

- a) The Animal Adoption Agreement must be completed by the AV, IACUC Chair, and Adopting Owner. This agreement releases UTA of all future obligations to the animal.
- b) Three copies of the Animal Adoption Agreement are completed. One copy of the document will be provided to the IACUC (Office of Regulatory Services), one to the UTA Animal Care Facility (for the animal's disposition record), and one to the new owner for his or her records.
- c) For USDA-covered species, two copies of [USDA APHIS Form 7020](#) are completed with information regarding adoption of the animal and the new owner. One copy of Form 7020 is provided to the new owner, and the other to UTA Animal Care Facility.
- d) The final notation in the animal's permanent clinical record will be that the animal was adopted as a private pet. The Animal Adoption Agreement will be included in the permanent record.
- e) If requested by the new owner, a summary of the animal's clinical record will be provided.

4) Finalization of Adoption.

- a) If the animal adoption is unsuccessful, it is the adopted owner's responsibility to find new and appropriate placement of the animal.
- b) An animal finalized for adoption cannot be returned to the UTA Animal Care Facility due to possible introduction of infection or disease to the healthy animals housed within the Facility.

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Animal Adoption Agreement & Release

I, as the "Adopting Owner," hereby accept the animal described herein from the University of Texas Arlington, 701 S. Nedderman Drive, Arlington, TX 76019. I understand that the University of Texas at Arlington has transferred ownership of the animal to me.

I understand that by executing this Agreement & Release I accept any and all responsibility for legal claims arising from ownership of my animal, including claims made from any third party, and I hereby release and agree to indemnify the University of Texas at Arlington, their officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all liability and responsibility for injury to persons or damages to property which may arise from ownership of my animal.

I agree to be fully responsible for the care, treatment, actions, and well-being of this animal. Furthermore, I acknowledge that I am adopting this animal solely as my personal pet and not for use in any illegal or harmful activity that may have adverse effects upon the animal or the Trustees of the University of Texas Arlington.

I am fully aware that this animal has been the subject of a research study at the University of Texas at Arlington, and I understand that the animal has been examined by the UTA Veterinarian or his or her designee, as evidenced by his or her signature below. Any health conditions or abnormal conditions, known to exist at the time of the adoption, have been explained to me and I affirm that I am capable of handling all the obligations connected with the care and treatment of the animal. I acknowledge that I have been given the opportunity to obtain a summary of the clinical records of the animal.

I understand that adoption of a research animal carries inherent risk that cannot be completely eliminated even by proper veterinary care. This animal may have been infected with organisms, bacteria, and/or protozoa that could be transmissible to humans or other animals. I understand that hypersensitivity and allergies to animals is very common among the general population, but that the animal I am adopting has not been exposed to any materials or used in a manner that would increase the likelihood of developing an allergy.

I understand that adoption of this animal is final, and the animal cannot be returned to the UTA campus or Animal Care Facility for any reason, including development of an allergy. I have identified a veterinarian willing to treat the animal for both regular and emergency care, taking into account that the animal may be considered "exotic" in nature. I have reviewed the attached checklist of standard husbandry requirements, and I accept responsibility for ensuring the items will be made available to the animal.

Instructions: A single Animal Adoption Agreement & Release Form may be used *per individual*. For instance, if one individual is adopting multiple animals, please address all animals on one agreement and release form. You may add additional lines below if necessary or attach additional copies of the animal information page.

The University of Texas ARLINGTON

The adoption is not considered final (and animals may not be transferred to the adopting owner), until all signatures have been obtained on this form. Three copies of this agreement and release form will be made: (1) adopting owner, (2) ACF Manager, (3) Office of Regulatory Services.

Identification Number (for USDA animals):

IACUC Protocol #:

Number of Animals (by species):

Species (list all):

Weight:

Color/Markings or Breed/Strain:

Source of Animal (Dealer/Name, USDA License #):

I agree to accept full responsibility for this animal, including any and all future costs related to the animal's care and well-being. I have completely and thoroughly read this Animal Adoption Agreement & Release and agree that all the terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted for the purpose of making a full and final adoption of the animal. If the adoption placement is unsuccessful, I accept full responsibility to find new and appropriate placement of the animal.

Adopting Owner:

Adopting Owner (print)	Date
Adopting Owner (sign)	
Owner's Address	
Owner's Phone number	

University:

UT Arlington Veterinarian
Date of Veterinary Examination
IACUC Chairperson
Date of Adoption Approval

I am in agreement with the determination of the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC, and I approve the transfer of property from UTA to the above-named Adopting Owner.

James P. Grover, PhD
Institutional Official

Date