

Purpose/Scope

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to outline Mississippi State University's procedure regarding the suspension or termination and reinstatement of an ongoing animal use project.

References

1. **Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR) §1.1 Attending Veterinarian; §2.33a,2** state that the Attending Veterinarian must have direct or delegated authority for activities of animal care and use and must be able to provide adequate veterinary care.
2. **PHS Policy IV,A,3,b,1** has a similar statement.
3. **The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals p.114** requires that the veterinarian have the authority to remove an animal from an experiment in the case of a pressing health problem.

Terms

Suspend/Halt – an action initiated by the University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian (ULAV) or IACUC Chair to stop temporarily animal activities pending future review and action by the IACUC.

Terminate – an action initiated by the IACUC to stop permanently animal activities based on a review of the facts and majority vote of the IACUC.

Policy

The University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian and the IACUC Chair have the authority to immediately and unilaterally halt an ongoing animal use procedure(s), subject to subsequent rapid review by the IACUC. Any such action by the ULAV or the IACUC Chair, even if not sustained by the IACUC, must be reported to the funding agency, USDA-APHIS, OLAW, and/or AAALAC as applicable.

The Institutional Official may unilaterally halt, terminate, or impose sanctions on any animal activity. However, the Institutional Official may not approve or reinstate any animal activity without IACUC approval. ([PHS Policy IV.C.8](#))

Procedure

1. Following the suspension of an animal activity, the IACUC Chair shall immediately (within 2 working days) begin an investigation of the circumstances resulting in the suspension.
2. The IACUC Chair will convene the IACUC within 5 business days of the suspension.
3. If possible, during the convened IACUC meeting, the Principal Investigator and/or other concerned individual(s) should be allowed to address the committee although animal welfare concerns must take precedence.

Title: **Suspension or Termination and Reinstatement of Animal Activities**

Effective Date: **September 20, 2016**

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4. The IACUC may vote to allow the suspended activity to resume immediately, to continue the suspension for a period of time, or to terminate the animal activity.
5. The continued suspension or termination should cite specific grounds for the action and conditions under which the activity might be reinstated.
6. The IACUC should also consider the following:
 - a. The disposition of animals assigned to that protocol;
 - b. Whether the protocol can be assigned to a different PI in good standing; and
 - c. Conditions under which individuals associated with the protocol (but not under investigation) could continue animal work.
7. All actions including grounds for that action and any conditions for reinstatement must be described in an official letter from the IACUC Chair to the individual concerned. A copy will be sent to the relevant supervisor, Department Head, Dean, and Institutional Official.
8. As applicable, OLAW, USDA-APHIS, AAALAC, and the funding agency will be notified in accordance with SOP IACUC-RPT-002 Reporting of Suspension of Activity.
9. Requests for clarification or reconsideration should follow SOP IACUC-RVW-017 Policy for Appeals.

Reviewed:

IACUC Chairperson

Date

Research Compliance & Security Director

Date