

<b>Version: 1.1</b> <b>Effective Date:</b> <b>4/26/2024</b>	<b>Animal Adoption Policy</b>	<b>Supersedes</b> <b>Document Dated:</b> <b>9/1/2019</b>
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I. Purpose

This policy provides guidance to investigators and other personnel regarding the adoption of research animals owned by the University of California at Berkeley (UCB).

II. Background

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, the PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Act are silent on the issue of private adoption of research animals for pets after a study has been completed or the animals are no longer required for research. The 9 CFR recordkeeping regulations and official policies offer institutions the option of developing and implementing an adoption policy. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) are supportive of the adoption of research animals.

III. Policy

In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals; the breeding of extra animals or ordering and receipt of animals unable to be used in the intended research; adoption into a private home shall be encouraged by the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). Adoption is achieved in consultation with the principal investigator and at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian or his/her designee.

Criteria for Adoption

- The animal must be determined to be in good health and behaviorally stable by an OLAC veterinarian.
- If any agents have been administered to the animal, the effects of these should be considered when determining suitability and disclosed to the potential adopter.
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents are not eligible for adoption.
- Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals cannot be adopted.
- Unanticipated (accidental) births rarely occur within the animal facilities. Animals that fall under these criteria will automatically be under OLAC holding protocol and care as the animal undergoes health assessment prior to adoption.
- Animals must be adopted only as personal or family pets and may not be sold.
- Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
- The adopter is responsible for any future medical care/support as may be required.

Adoption of any animal that has undergone a surgical procedure for research purposes (excluding reproductive sterilization procedures) must be approved by the ACUC.

IV. Responsibilities and Procedures

- A. The principal investigator must first:
  1. indicate to OLAC veterinary staff that the animal is not needed for research;
  2. state that they have no knowledge of any fact that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption; and,
  3. recommend the animal be offered for adoption.
  4. If the PI is aware of any conditions that may have an impact on the animal's suitability as a pet, this must be communicated to the potential adopter.
  5. The PI must inform OLAC Veterinary staff upon discovery of an accidental birth.
- B. A transfer form must be filled out by the PI or designee transferring the animal to the OLAC animal use protocol "Training in Laboratory Animal Methods".
- C. An OLAC veterinarian will conduct a physical exam of the animal and order preventive care procedures as indicated. Blood and other tests as required to determine whether the animal is a suitable pet, appropriate vaccinations and other preventive care will be performed by the veterinary staff. Results of the exam and any test results should be furnished to the prospective new owner. Spaying, neutering, or other common surgical procedures may be performed prior to adoption, at the discretion of the veterinarian and ACUC approval, if needed.
- D. An OLAC veterinarian will meet/talk with the potential adopter and conduct an interview to determine the reasons for the adoption and the person's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare. In addition, potential adopters will be screened by the veterinarian for their suitability, knowledge of appropriate care of the type of animal, and qualifications.
- E. The individual desiring to adopt the animal should complete and sign an Animal Adoption Agreement (see Appendix). The original copy of this agreement will be retained by OLAC and copies will be given to the new owner as proof of ownership transfer. In the case of USDA regulated species adoption, the applicable APHIS form (7006 or 7020) will be completed and retained by OLAC.

V. References

Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (U.S.). 2011. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

National Institutes of Health (U.S.). Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare., United States. Public Health Service. 2002. *Public Health Service policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals*. Bethesda, MD (6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda 20892-7982): Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Federation of Animal Science Societies. 2010. *Guide for the care and use of agricultural animals in research and teaching*. Champaign, IL: FASS, Federation of

Animal Science Societies.

United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. 2005. *Animal Welfare Act and animal welfare regulations*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, APHIS.

American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. *Adoption of Research Animals – ACLAM Position Statement*, updated October, 2017. <https://www.aclam.org/about/position-statements>

**Appendix – Animal Adoption Form**

I accept the adoption of the animal described below from The University of California, Berkeley (UCB). I agree with UCB’s assessment that the animal is in good health. I understand that there are no expressed or implied guarantees relative to the health or temperament of the animal.

I accept responsibility for the care of this animal and will make all reasonable attempts to care for this animal in a manner considered appropriate for this species.

This animal is to be a pet for me/my immediate family. I understand that it is not to be sold or otherwise released from my care unless extreme circumstances require the same. If this animal must be released from my care, I will make every attempt to secure a satisfactory home for it.

I assume responsibility and agree to hold harmless from liability UCB or its agents, for any claim that may arise from the adoption of this animal.

I have read and understand the foregoing and voluntarily sign this Animal Adoption Form with full knowledge of its significance.

Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed or Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifying Marks/ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccination History of Animal:

Medical/Behavioral Information:

Person Adopting Animal (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Acquisition: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(OLAC Veterinarian)