

<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b>		<b>UNTHSC</b>
Title: Veterinary Care		
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**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Adequate veterinary care is essential in an animal care and use program. The PHS Policy and Animal Welfare Regulations require a veterinarian as a component to the animal care and use program.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of the University of North Texas Health Science Center’s Attending Veterinarian, IACUC members and investigators to abide by this policy.

**C. PROCEDURES**

The Veterinarian:

- i. Has overall responsibility for emergency health matters at the request of DLAM and research staff. The veterinarian may assign or direct a veterinary technician or designee to triage emergency health of other clinical matters.
- ii. Participates as a voting member of the IACUC.
- iii. Reviews all animal related protocols, annual reviews and those amendments that affect personnel or animal welfare that are submitted to the IACUC.
- iv. Provides veterinary oversight on approved research/training projects.
- v. Assures that appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services are available and comply with applicable regulations.
- vi. Assures the use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose and treat diseases and injuries.
- vii. Provides “on-call” animal health support on an ongoing basis including weekends, holidays and after regular business hours or arranges back-up veterinary care in their absence.
- viii. Is responsible for the daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being. These observations will be done by DLAM staff. Staff will communicate to the veterinarian any problems of animal health, behavior and well-being.
- ix. Provides guidance to principal investigators and other personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.
- x. Provides adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with current established veterinary medical procedures.

#### **D. REFERENCES**

- a. The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2011), National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.
- b. Animal Welfare Act, Public Law 89-544 as amended; codified at 7 U.S.C. 2131-2159.
- c. PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NIH, Office of the Director, Revised 2015.