Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Adoption of Laboratory Animals		
Document #: 056	**Version #:** 01	
Approved by IACUC Date: December 17, 2019		

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. This document provides guidelines for adoption of research animals from University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC).

b. The Guide of the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 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 Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is supportive of the concept of adoption.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to indicate if the animal is no longer needed for research at UNTHSC. Further, the PI is responsible for disclosing any information that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption, including but not limited to, any conditions that may have impacted the animal's suitability as a pet. The PI is also responsible for any per diem charges, veterinary care, or other fees related to the animals associated with the adoption.

b. The adopter is responsible for providing evidence of a suitable housing, husbandry, companionship and veterinary care for the animal.

c. It is the responsibility of the Veterinarian or qualified designee to examine the animal, which may include a physical examination, blood testing, vaccination, or any other tests deemed necessary to determine whether the animal is a suitable pet. In addition, it is the responsibility for the veterinarian or qualified designee to screen potential adopters for their suitability, knowledge of the care and type of animal, and qualifications.

d. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to approve the adoption.

C. PROCEDURES

a. **Eligibility:**

For a research animal to be eligible for adoption the following conditions must be met:

i. Animals that have undergone a major surgical procedure will only be adopted out at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.

ii. The animal should not have been administered any non-pharmaceutical grade substances. If any pharmaceutical grade drugs have been administered to the animal, the drugs should be disclosed to the potential adopter.
iii. Animals which have been exposed to any infectious agents are not eligible for adoption.
iv. Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals are not eligible for adoption.
v. Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only, and may not be sold, used for commercial purposes (i.e., breeding, exhibiting, etc…), or used as food for human or animal consumption.
vi. The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
vii. The adopter is willing to accept responsibility for any future medical care/ support as may be required.

b. **Process:**

The IACUC recommends the following set of procedures:

i. The Principal Investigator must first indicate that the animal is not needed for research at UNTHSC. Including, evidence that the animal may not be used by other PIs with an IACUC approved protocol.
    a. The PI must sign a statement of assurance that the animal is eligible for adoption (based on the standards of eligibility outlined in this document).
ii. The Veterinarian or qualified designee will examine the animal to ensure its eligibility, which may include a physical examination of the animal, blood testing, appropriate vaccinations, or other tests deemed necessary to determine with the animal is a suitable pet.
iii. The potential new owner will meet with the Attending Veterinarian or qualified designee to determine the reasons for the adoption and the person's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare, as well as, screened for suitability, knowledge of care, and qualifications.
iv. An adoption form is completed and signed by all parties, the PI, the potential new owner, and the veterinarian or qualified designee.
v. This form is then submitted to the IACUC for approval. This form may be reviewed either via Designated Member Review, or Full Committee Review.
vi. Once approved by the IACUC, the animal adoption day is scheduled by the veterinarian or qualified designee. The form will be completed by the veterinarian or qualified designee, showing the transfer of the animal ownership to the new owner. The new owner will receive a copy of the form, and all appropriate parties (i.e., DLAM, IACUC Office, and PI) will receive a copy for their files. The University will no longer be responsible for the animal, its care, or any damage it may cause.

D. REFERENCES

a. OLAW FAQ. F. Animal Use and Management. 11. Can IACUCs authorize the adoption of research animals as pets after the animal are no longer needed for study?

E. Attachments:

a. Adoption Form

University of North Texas Health Science Center

Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine

Animal Adoption Form

Eligibility:

For a research animal to be eligible for adoption the following conditions must be met:

i. Animals that have undergone a major surgical procedure will only be adopted out at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.
ii. The animal should not have been administered any non-pharmaceutical grade substances. If any pharmaceutical grade drugs have been administered to the animal, the drugs should be disclosed to the potential adopter.
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vi. The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
vii. The adopter is willing to accept responsibility for any future medical care/ support as may be required.

Species:	**Strain:**	**Sex:**
Age (DOB)/ Weight:	**Color/ Markings:**	**Animal Number:**

Medical/ Behavioral Information:

_____
_____
_____

Vaccination History:

_____
_____
_____

New Owner Information:

New Owner's Name: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Address:

_____
_____
_____

Method of Transportation:

_____
_____
_____

Principal Investigator Assurance:

This release form has been reviewed for Principal Investigator, and animal meets adoption eligibility requirements.

_____ _____

Principal Investigator Signature *Date*

IACUC Approval:

This was reviewed by the IACUC, and found acceptable for approval.

_____ _____

IACUC Chair Signature *Date*

Veterinary Approval:

After thorough examination, to the best of my knowledge the animal meets adoption eligibility.

_____ _____

Veterinarian Signature *Date*

University of North Texas Health Science Center

Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine

Animal Adoption Form

Acceptance of New Ownership:

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to accept full ownership and responsibility for the animal(s) described above from the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC). I understand that UNTHSC has transferred ownership of the animal to me.

I understand that by executing this Animal Adoption Release, I accept responsibility for any and all claims or causes of action arising from or incident to ownership of said animal, and I hereby release UNTHSC, its officers, agents and employees from any and all liability and responsibility for injury to persons or damages to property which may arise from or incident to ownership of said animal.

I accept complete responsibility for maintaining accurate records of the animal and complete authority in deciding, recommending, or carrying out disposal of the above animal. I (we) acknowledge that I (we) have read and understood this document before signing.

I certify that the above described animal will not be used for human or animal consumption, and that this animal shall receive humane care and treatment at all times.

_____ _____

Signature *Date*

Signature of parent or guardian required if new owner is a minor:

_____ _____

Signature *Date*

Date of transfer to new owner: _____