Policy on IACUC Adoption of Animals Designated for Research

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Research Integrity and Compliance

Approved by: IACUC chair and vice chair
Date: 8/2/2016

Approved by: Compliance Officer
Date: 8/2/2016

Approved by: IACUC
Date: 11/9/2016

I. PURPOSE
This document establishes policies and provides guidelines for adoption of research animals from the Montclair State University (MSU).

II. BACKGROUND
The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (1) and the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (3) discuss the termination of research animals at the conclusion of the research project. However, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (1) and the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (3) the PHS Policy (2), and the Animal Welfare Act (4) 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) is supportive of the concept of adoption. In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals, 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 Montclair State University IACUC. Adoption is done in consultation with the principal investigator and orchestrated through the unit responsible for the care and use of the animal. Adoption is at the discretion of the PI and/or Vivarium Director [animals under Vivarium Care]. For a research animal to be eligible for adoption the following conditions must be met:

The animal must have not been subjected to a research major surgical procedure. Routine veterinary surgeries are exempted.

- The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements or pharmaceutically compounded veterinary drugs. If any FDA approved drugs have been administered to the animal the drug should be disclosed to the potential adopter.
- Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals cannot be adopted.
- Threatened or endangered species cannot be adopted.
- In cases where animals require specialized permits, it is the responsibility of the adoptee to obtain the permit
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents in course of the study protocol are not eligible for adoption.
Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
The adopter is responsible for any future medical care/support as may be required.

III. PROCEDURES
The IACUC recommends the following set of procedures:

1. The principal investigator must first indicate that the animal is not needed for research at MSU, state that s/he has no knowledge of any fact that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption, and recommends the animal be offered for adoption. 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.

2. If applicable, the animal may be offered for adoption to other Principal Investigators with an IACUC approved research protocol. If after 10 days no researcher indicates a desire to use the animal, the animal will be considered for the adoption program.

3. If an individual indicates an interest in adopting an animal, a PI or Vivarium Director will meet with that individual 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. Potential adopters will be screened by the PI for their suitability, knowledge of the care of the type of animal, and qualifications.

4. An adoption form (please see Appendix I) should be filled out by the PI or designee transferring animal ownership to the new owner. A copy of the adoption form should be kept by the PI and submitted to the IACUC.

5. On the day the Animal Adoption Form is signed the animal should be removed from the MSU facility. Once the animal leaves the facility it is the possession of its new owner; the University will no longer be responsible for the animal, its care or any damage it may cause.
REFERENCES:


https://www.aalas.org/iacuc/iacuc_resources/animal-adoption-forms

http://www.research.uky.edu/ori/univet/resources/sop/IACUC_131_Adoption_Policy.pdf
Appendix I

Montclair State University

Adoption of Ectothermic Vertebrates (Reptiles, Amphibians and Fish)

Adoption Agreement

Adopter Name: _____________________ ("Adopter")
Adopter Address: __________________________

Animal Description (hereinafter referred to as “animal”)
Species: ____________ Identification: ____________ Sex: M F Age: ________

Montclair State University hereby transfers ownership of the animal described above to the adopter named herein without reservation of any kind and "as is".

The animal described above has been examined by MSU and found to be physically healthy and has not been used in an experiment involving an infectious disease. However, reptiles and amphibians may harbor infectious diseases and MSU makes no representation as to whether such risks exist with the animal, and the Adopter accepts the animal with such inherent risks. The adopter has had opportunity to examine the animal and confirm it does not exhibit aggressive or antisocial behavior. The animal has no implanted devices. This animal shows no sign of chronic health problems from natural or experimental causes; however the University makes no representations and provides no warranty about the health of the animal now or in the future.

The adopter acknowledges and agrees to the following:

1. The adopter acknowledges and accepts that the animal has or may have been the subject for research purposes.
2. The adopter acknowledges that there are no expressed or implied guarantees, warranties or promises relative to the health or temperament of the animal now or in the future.
3. The adopter acknowledges and accepts any and all risks associated with accepting the animal into his/her home.
4. The adopter agrees that the animal is being adopted as a pet for him/herself and that the animal will not be sold or given away, release to wild or otherwise released from his/her care. If the animal described herein must be released from the adopter’s care for any reason, the adopter agrees to return the animal to MSU or to secure MSU approval to rehome the animal. In the event the animal is returned to MSU, the adopter shall have no further right to ownership of the animal.
5. The adopter acknowledges and accepts all responsibilities of animal ownership and will provide proper care and treatment for the animal in a manner generally considered appropriate for a pet of this species.
6. The adopter acknowledges that MSU strongly recommends the adopter take the animal to their veterinarian for testing and any recommended vaccinations.
7. The adopter hereby forever agrees to release and hold harmless MSU, the State of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority from any liability of any kind whatsoever arising as a result of or in connection with the adoption of the animal.

___________________________________________  __________________________
Adopter Signature Date