



# Dartmouth College

## Animal Care and Use Program

### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

#### IACUC Policies and Procedures

**Title:** Inter-Institutional Animal Research

**Purpose:** The Dartmouth College Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) recognizes that an increasing number of investigators are performing animal housing or procedures at offsite locations, or conversely, other institutions are performing collaborative animal work at Dartmouth. While every collaborative animal research and teaching activity is unique, it is beneficial to provide a framework for decision-making about the institutional responsibility for the care of the animals. This can also be used by the investigator to determine feasibility and requirements of the proposed activity.

**Policy:** While USDA and AAALAC assign responsibility for animals based on ownership, PHS assigns responsibility based on funding. This requires IACUC decision making on a case-by case basis. In all cases, the Dartmouth IACUC requires conformity to all federal, state, local, AAALAC and institutional regulations and policies. The following table is a guide for determining the type of protocol and type of institutional IACUC review needed in varying circumstances. The IACUC is responsible for making decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Funded Institution	Example	AAALAC Status of Location	Housing and/or Use Location	Protocol Review Responsibility	Animal Owner	*Other Requirements
Non-Dartmouth	Dartmouth facilities are used by outside institution	AAALAC Accredited	Dartmouth	Dartmouth or Both	Non-Dart	None
Dartmouth	Dartmouth research animal housed at non-Dartmouth facility	AAALAC Accredited	Non-Dartmouth, *Not PHS Assured	Dartmouth or Both	Dartmouth	PHS Inter-Institutional Agreement <sup>1</sup> , or Dartmouth amends its assurance
Dartmouth	Dartmouth research animal housed at non-Dartmouth facility	AAALAC Accredited	Non-Dartmouth, PHS Assured	Dartmouth or Both	Dartmouth	None
Dartmouth	Dartmouth research animal housed at non-Dartmouth facility	AAALAC Non-Accredited	Non-Dartmouth, PHS Assured	Dartmouth or Both	Dartmouth	Approved only under special agreement with facility (AAALAC). <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> No Dartmouth Animal Research (or No PHS Funded Research) may take place at a facility that fails to have a PHS assurance ("Animal Welfare Assurance") or a PHS Inter-Institutional Agreement in place unless Dartmouth has amended its assurance to cover a non-assured performance site.

<sup>2</sup> The offsite facility must be incorporated into Dartmouth's AAALAC program description, and AAALAC must visit during triennial site visits.

Dartmouth	Dartmouth research animal housed at non-Dartmouth facility	AAALAC Non-Accredited	Non-Dartmouth, *Not PHS Assured	Dartmouth or Both	Dartmouth	Approved only under special agreement with facility (AAALAC). <sup>3</sup>
Dartmouth	Dartmouth subaward to collaborating institution for research led by Non-Dartmouth researcher	AAALAC Accredited	Non-Dart., PHS Assured	Non - Dartmouth	Non-Dart	None
Dartmouth (VA PI)	Animal Work at VA	AAALAC Accredited	WRJ-VA	WRJ-VA	Dartmouth	See MOU

Reciprocal protocols are not allowed by the Dartmouth IACUC. Reciprocal protocols are protocols written on a form from another institution and approved by the IACUC at the other institution. Any research being conducted using grant funds obtained by a Dartmouth faculty member, or conducted on Dartmouth property, must be approved by the Dartmouth IACUC using a Dartmouth Animal Subjects Review Form (ASRF). The only exception to this is with the WRJ-VA, for which a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists.

**Other Requirements For Inter-Institutional Animal Research:** Periodically, studies are conducted by Dartmouth Principal Investigators (PI's) who house animals or conduct research at a non-Dartmouth facility, using Dartmouth grant monies. In these cases, the non-Dartmouth facility must have a PHS Assurance number, and must furnish both the PHS Assurance Number (or provide a PHS Inter-Institutional Agreement), and a copy of the IACUC Animal Protocol and Approval Letter to the Dartmouth IACUC. In addition, the Dartmouth PI must submit an ASRF to the Dartmouth IACUC. Generally, the Principal Investigator is responsible for assuring that these documents are received by the IACUC prior to IACUC approval. It also becomes increasingly complicated depending on the ownership of the animals. If housing and research on animals is conducted at another institution, and the animals are owned by Dartmouth College, then there is a requirement that this location becomes part of the AAALAC accreditation process and be included in subsequent site visits, unless already AAALAC accredited. This would place the Dartmouth AAALAC accreditation in jeopardy. Therefore, the Dartmouth IACUC requires that these institutions be accredited by AAALAC International and provide proof of accreditation prior to protocol approval.

In very special circumstances this requirement may be waived. However, a specific request and justification must be submitted to the IACUC. In this situation, the Director of the Animal Care and Use Program and others as determined appropriate would visit the institution to determine if the institution can meet the requirements of AAALAC accreditation and not jeopardize the Dartmouth accreditation status. In all cases where Dartmouth funds or Dartmouth owned animals are used, it is the responsibility of the Dartmouth IACUC to assure adequate oversight of the animal care program at the other institution.

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<sup>3</sup> Requires incorporation of the facility into Dartmouth's AAALAC program description, an AAALAC visit during triennial site visits AND a PHS Inter-Institutional Agreement Assurance or amendment to Dartmouth's Animal Welfare Assurance to include the institution.