



Dartmouth College

Animal Care and Use Program

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

### IACUC Policies and Procedures

**Title:** Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds

**Policy:** The Animal Welfare Act (AWA), Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* require that all animals used in research be provided adequate veterinary care. The United States Department of Agriculture in their Animal Care Policies published in January of 2000 state; "Investigators are expected to use pharmaceutical-grade medication whenever they are available, even in acute procedures". To assure that animals used in research projects at Dartmouth College receive adequate veterinary care, the IACUC has developed the following Policy (for the purpose of this policy medication is defined as a drug or remedy):

Non-pharmaceutical-grade medications can be used only in research/teaching activities utilizing animals if reviewed and approved by the IACUC. The following circumstances must be met for consideration by the IACUC

1. The research activity requires the use of non-pharmaceutical-grade medications for reason of scientific necessity.
2. Acceptable veterinary or human pharmaceutical-grade medications are not available.
3. Cost savings alone is not an adequate justification for using non-pharmaceutical-grade medications in animals.

When using non-pharmaceutical-grade medications, it is the responsibility of the investigator to take precautions to assure that the compound does not contain contaminants that might affect the well-being of the animal or compromise the validity of the scientific study.

**References:**

- *USDA Animal Care Policies. Veterinary Care, Policy No. 3, January, 2000.*
- *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Reprint, 2000.*
- *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, National Academy Press, 1996.*