Washington State University
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

TISSUE USE POLICY

A. Purpose:
To verify that a full Animal Subjects Approval Form (ASAF) is not required for the animal tissue used.

B. Principle:
To review animal tissue use and verify that the tissue and use falls outside the scope of the IACUC’s responsibility while both providing outside agencies with proof of such a review and educating investigators about the scope of the IACUC.

C. Scope:
These policies apply to all tissues* obtained from dead animals used by WSU-affiliated staff. These policies do not apply to tissue obtained from living animals (as they require an ASAF) and do not apply to chemically-fixed tissues used in histological investigation of disease pathology.

D. Review:
Review of tissue use shall be conducted using IACUC administrative review procedures that may include consultation with a member of the campus veterinary staff. Review shall focus on two key issues that discriminate tissue use from animal use covered by ASAF submission:
1. To verify that the animals are not manipulated prior to euthanasia for the purposes of the investigator who is taking tissue. For example, animals cannot be fed a special diet prior to euthanasia for tissue. If animals are manipulated prior to euthanasia, a full ASAF must be submitted by the investigator.
2. Animals cannot be produced or euthanized specifically to generate tissues. All tissue harvesting must be secondary and inconsequential to why the animal is being euthanized. If animals are being bred or euthanized solely for the purposes of tissue use, a full ASAF must be submitted by the investigator. The IACUC seeks to minimize the unnecessary production of research animals and to limit over-breeding.
E. Policy:

1. Any animal tissue use can be reviewed under these policies. This includes, but is not limited to, any post-euthanasia harvested tissues, necropsy tissue, any commercially-available animal tissues, and any tissues collected in field studies.

2. A protocol number can be assigned to this review if requested by the investigator for use with extramural funding agencies, even if this review indicates that animal use is outside the prevue of the IACUC. Additionally, a letter stating why this tissue use is exempt from IACUC review will also be produced following review if requested by the investigator.

3. Investigators may be informed of any additional occupational risks noted after review to reinforce existing policy and procedures to minimize transmission of zoonotic biohazards or other animal contact-related hazards.

4. A form gathering this information is available and completion of the online form allows this tissue use, although potentially outside the scope of the IACUC, to be entered in the research database.

*For purposes of this policy, a tissue includes- cells, body fluids, blood etc.

Approved by WSU- IACUC on: 9.24.14