

**Washington State University**  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

<b>DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS</b>
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**A. Purpose**

To clarify how animals may be disposed after completing an approved protocol.

**B. Principle**

To ensure that all animals are subject to the same ethical standards.

**C. Scope**

These policies apply to animals involved in teaching, testing, and research at Washington State University. Different natural histories, physiologies, behaviors, and environmental requirements together with different research protocols warrant that requirements for disposition of animals should be suited to the particular species, as has been recognized in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide).

**D. Policies**

1. ***All animals.***

The Animal Subjects Approval Form (ASAF) must indicate the intended final disposition for the animals involved.

2. ***Farm and domestic animals, and rodents***

Animals remaining at the end of an approved ASAF may be removed in the following ways:

- a. Euthanized in accordance with current AVMA Panel on euthanasia guidelines.
- b. Transferred from one active ASAF to another active ASAF, subject to limitations regarding multiple survival surgery.
- c. Livestock Sales or Production Plant disposition in accordance with USDA and FDA regulations.
- d. Returned to privately-owned or researcher-owned care, respectively, if client or researcher originally donated these to the study.
- e. Transfer to suitable individual or institution. WSU owns animals and none can be removed from WSU without first completing a Transfer of Animals form\*. Animals are not to be transferred out, and then returned to a WSU research or teaching protocol.

- Animals transferred must be examined by a WSU veterinarian and determined to be in good health prior to transfer.
- All dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered prior to transfer.

**3. All other animals—“Nontraditional”**

Non-farm and non-domestic vertebrate animals include most birds and wildlife mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and various groups of fishes.

Animals remaining at the end of an approved ASAF may be removed in the following ways:

- a. By any of the methods mentioned above.
- b. Returned to the wild in accordance with State and Federal Wildlife regulations and collecting permits.
- c. Euthanatized by approved methods, preserved, and donated to research collections or Museums as part of permanent collections.
- d. Returned to an approved long-term colony.

**4. Alternative methods of final disposition**

Exceptions to these policies may be requested to and approved by the WSU-IACUC prior to final disposition.

*\*Questions on where to acquire Transfer of Animal forms can be directed to the IACUC office or the Office of the Campus Veterinarian staff.*

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Approved by the WSU-IACUC: 3.28. 2012