



Division of Research University Policy

SUBJECT: Photography and Videography in Laboratory Animals	Effective Date: 1/27/2017	Policy Number: 10.4.27
	Supersedes: N/A	Page Of 1 3
	Responsible Authorities: Vice President, Research Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Director, Research Integrity Director, Comparative Medicine	

- I. Background
There are scientific advantages for the use of photographs or videos of animals for research, teaching or testing purposes. However, with the prevalent use of social media and access to mobile devices with cameras and video recorders photographs or videos may be used out of context by groups opposed to research involving animals in an effort to misrepresent humane and ethical animal use as inappropriate.
- II. Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to establish guidance to Research personnel and Comparative Medicine personnel regarding photography and videotaping of animals within animal facilities and Investigator laboratories as described in approved IACUC protocols and to guard against the misinterpretation of appropriate and humane policies and procedures.
- III. General Statement
FAU and its Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee are committed to protecting the confidentiality and integrity of animal research, to protect the privacy and safety interests of research personnel and staff and to protect the health and welfare of research animals.
- IV. Policy
 1. Any photographs or videos taken of animals within FAU animal facilities are prohibited unless documented on an approved IACUC protocol or amendment.
 2. Distribution of photographs or videos of animals are not permitted to be posted to any type of social media unless approved by the IACUC.

3. Only research personnel listed on the approved IACUC protocol that describe the use of photography and videography are permitted to take photographs or videos.
4. The Principal Investigator must approve all photographs or videos taken of animals on the approved IACUC protocol.
5. Comparative medicine staff are permitted to use photographs or videos for veterinary medical purposes including wildlife and biomedical clinical documentation and training. An approved IACUC protocol is not required for veterinary clinical care.
6. Photographs or videos must be stored on a secure password protected computer or server and the original image must be deleted immediately from the image device.

V. Definitions

Images are any photograph or video recording (digital or analog). Devices include cameras, video recorders, audio recorders, computer-mounted video capture units, and mobile cellphone or tablet cameras.

Animal Facility is an IACUC designated place where animals are housed under an approved IACUC protocol, either a CM managed centralized vivarium (including procedure space) or a PI managed satellite facility or approved study area.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing including hair covers, eye/face protection and gloves worn by faculty, staff and students for protection against health and safety hazards.

VI. Accountability

The Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for:

- Obtaining IACUC approval for the use of photographs or videos through an IACUC protocol.
- Assuring that all Research personnel understand and follow this policy.
- Approving all photographs or videos taken of animals.
- Assuring high standards for the health and well-being of animals used in photographs or videos.

The Office of Comparative Medicine (CM) will be responsible for:

- Assuring that all Comparative Medicine personnel understand and follow this policy.
- Approving all photographs or videos taken of animals.
- Assuring high standards for the health and well-being of animals used in photographs or videos.

The IACUC will be responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving, requiring modifications in (to secure approval) or withholding approval of IACUC protocols/amendments of the procedures described for photography and videography of animals.
- Providing oversight and guidance for all animal procedures conducted including the use of photography and videography of animals.

The Research Integrity office will be responsible for:

- Administratively support IACUC members to facilitate their regulatory function.
- Maintaining policy and assure regular review and update as necessary by the IACUC.

VII. Procedures

1. Procedures shown in the photograph or video must be an approved method described in the protocol.
2. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by all personnel.
3. Appropriate methods of handling and restraint must be used while photographing or videotaping animals.
4. Animals must have clean surroundings or cages with clean accessories. Water bottles and feeders must be filled if shown in the photograph or video.
5. Photographs or videos that include animals with visible lesions or research alterations (i.e. implants, tumors) should be cropped to center on the lesion or research alteration instead of the animal.
6. No references to personal information may be visible in the photograph or video. This includes displaying any locations, names of personnel, institutions, buildings, room numbers or cage cards.
7. All personnel must be unidentified when visible in the photograph or video.

VIII. Policy Renewal Date

TBD

IX. References

University of Pennsylvania IACUC Guidelines.

(<http://www.upenn.edu/regulatoryaffairs/Documents/iacuc/policies/iacucpolicy-recordingimages.pdf>)

POLICY APPROVAL

Initiating Authority

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: Daniel C. Flynn, Ph.D., Vice President for Research

Executed signature pages are available in the Initiating Authority Office(s)