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**POLICY TITLE:** Care and Use of Animals in Research and Education

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**POLICY PURPOSE:** To ensure that vertebrate animals used for research and educational purposes are handled in accordance with the USDA Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service policies.

**BACKGROUND:**

**APPLIES TO:** Persons affiliated with FHSU conducting research, teaching, or exhibition involving vertebrate animals.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**CONTENTS:** The Animal Welfare Act requires that minimum standards of care and treatment be provided for certain animals used for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes. Animals must be provided with adequate housing, handling, sanitation, nutrition, water, veterinary care, and protection from extreme weather and temperatures. It is the stated aim of researchers to use as few animals as reasonably and as responsibly as possible.

The use of animals is guided by the principle of the 3 R's. This stands for:

**Replacement**

**Reduction**

**Refinement**

**Replacement** - In recent years there have been advances in non-animal techniques. These include computer modeling, cell cultures and *in vitro* (literally in glass - test tube) techniques. In some cases, these techniques can replace some of the existing animal tests but it will be many years before all animal tests will be made redundant by non-animal techniques.

**Reduction** - Quite simply this means that fewer animals are being used in many areas of research. Scientists are now able to be more confident in the results they have achieved. This confidence means

that fewer animals are required to be sure that the results are valid.

**Refinement** - This concerns the manner in which the animals are treated. Refinements are methods that alleviate or minimize potential pain and distress and enhance animal well-being. Potential pain and distress can be avoided or alleviated with proper use of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers. The principle of Refinement ensures that if an animal is involved in scientific research, it is treated with care and respect and suffers as little as possible.

**POLICY  
STATEMENT:**

The use of vertebrate animals for teaching, research, and exhibition by Fort Hays State University must comply with public laws, policies, and guidelines and be reviewed and approved by the FHSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Personnel involved in the research or the educational use of animals must receive appropriate training in humane handling and care of animals.

All animals used for research or educational purposes must be housed in appropriate institutional facilities that are approved by university administration and the IACUC. Building new facilities or renovating existing facilities for the care and use of animals must meet or exceed federal guidelines and must be approved by the university administration, university architect, and the IACUC.

The policy does not apply to non-vertebrate animals or to personal pets.

**EXCLUSIONS OR  
SPECIAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES:**

**RELATED  
DOCUMENTS:**

- Fort Hays State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Policies and Procedures
- Animal Welfare Act, United States Department of Agriculture
- Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council
- Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC)
- AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia
- Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Animals in Research
- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, Federation of Animal Science and Societies

**Forms:**

**Other:**

**KEYWORDS:** Animals, research, care and use of animals, exhibition of animals, animals used for research or teaching

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Office of Scholarship and Sponsored Projects (OSSP)

**RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL:** Provost

**ORIGINATION DATE:** 4/2012

**CHANGE HISTORY:** Approved by President 12/01/2021  
Adopted by Cabinet 12/01/2021  
Adopted by ELT 1/29/2016  
Adopted by President's Cabinet 6/13/2012

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