



Policy 376

Adoption

Responsible Official:	Research Administration
Administering Division/Department:	Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs / IACUC
Effective Date:	6/18/2014
Last Revision Date:	4/6/2022

376.1 Purpose: This document establishes policy and provides procedures for adoption of research animals from the Emory University.

376.2 Background: The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (1) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (3) discuss the termination of research animals at the conclusion of the research project. However, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (1) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (3) the PHS Policy (2), and the Animal Welfare Act (4) are silent on the issue of private adoption of research animals for pets after a study has been completed or the animals are no longer required for research. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is supportive of the concept of adoption.

376.3 Scope and Responsibility: In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals, breeding of extra animals or ordering and receipt of animals unable to be used in the intended research, adoption into a private home shall be permitted by the Emory University IACUC. This document applies to research animals meeting the eligibility criteria detailed below. Adoption is done in consultation with the principal investigator and orchestrated through the unit responsible for the care and use of the animal. Adoption is at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian or delegated clinical veterinarian of the animal facility.

376.4 Eligibility: For a research animal to be eligible for adoption the following conditions must be met:

- Animals that have undergone a major surgical procedure will only be adopted out at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.
- The animal should not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements or pharmaceutically compounded veterinary drugs. If any FDA approved drugs have been administered to the animal the drug should be disclosed to the potential adopter.
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents **are not** eligible for adoption.
- Transgenic or immune-suppressed animals cannot be adopted.
- Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
- Animals may not be used for any commercial purpose, including but not limited to breeding and exhibiting.
- Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
- The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
- The adopter is willing to accept responsibility for any future medical care/support as may be required.
- **Non-human primates are not subject to adoption under any circumstance.**



376.5 Procedures:

376.5.1 The Principal Investigator (PI): The PI must first indicate that the animal is not needed for research at Emory University. The PI must state that he/she has no knowledge of any fact that would make the animal inappropriate for adoption, and recommends the animal be offered for adoption. If the PI is aware of any conditions that may have an impact on the animal's suitability as a pet, this must be communicated to the potential adopter.

376.5.2 Availability for Other Research: Prior to adoption, attempts should be made to provide the animals for other research efforts.

376.5.3 Veterinarian Examination for Suitability: An Emory University state licensed veterinarian will conduct a physical exam of the animal, including blood testing if indicated, appropriate vaccinations or other tests deemed necessary to determine whether the animal is a suitable pet. Results of the exam and any test results should be furnished to the prospective new owner.

376.5.4 Potential New Owner Assessment: If an individual indicates an interest in adopting an animal, an Attending Veterinarian or qualified designee will meet/talk with that individual and conduct an interview to determine the reasons for the adoption and the person's willingness and ability to provide for the animal's welfare. The questionnaire attached as Appendix I is required to be completed by the veterinarian and adopter. Potential adopters will be screened by the veterinarian for their suitability, knowledge of the care of the type of animal, and qualifications.

376.5.5 Required Documentation for USDA Species: A transfer form should be filled out by the PI or designee transferring dog or cat ownership to the new owner. APHIS Form 7006 ("Record of Disposition of Dogs and Cats") should be completed. For other USDA regulated species, Form 7020 ("Record of Disposition of Animals other than Dogs and Cats") must be completed. Forms can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/aph7020.pdf>.

376.5.6 Optional Pre-Adoptive Common Surgical Procedures: Spaying, neutering, or other common surgical procedures may be performed prior to adoption, at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian or delegated clinical veterinarian. If surgical procedures need to be performed solely in connection with the adoption, the veterinarian will attempt to ascertain if cost reimbursement is available from an appropriate source, such as from the adopting family or other sources.

376.5.7 IACUC Review: The Attending Veterinarian or delegated clinical veterinarian shall submit both the Questionnaire for Potential Animal Adopter and the Animal Adoption Agreement to the IACUC Office. Note that in either of the two cases below, the IACUC must formally approve the adoption before the animal can be removed from Emory facilities as indicated in the sections below.

376.5.7.1 Non-Animal Welfare Act Regulated Species: The IACUC office will follow standard Designated Member Review (DMR) process for review and approval. The documents will be sent to all members of the IACUC for evaluation for possible Full Committee Review.

376.5.7.2 Animal Welfare Act Regulated Species: The IACUC office will follow standard Full Committee Review (FCR) process for review and approval. A primary and a secondary reviewer will be selected and the documents will be sent to all members of the IACUC for evaluation with the item placed on the agenda for FCR review.

376.5.8 Completion of Animal Adoption Agreement: The individual desiring to adopt the animal must complete and sign an Animal Adoption Agreement (see Appendix II). The IACUC Office will retain an electronic copy of this agreement, and provide a printed copy to the new owner as proof of ownership transfer.

376.5.9 Transfer of Animal: Once the IACUC has approved the adoption, the Animal Adoption Agreement can be signed and the animal should be removed from the Emory University or Yerkes animal facility. Once the animal leaves the facility it is the possession of its new owner; the University will no longer be responsible for the animal, its care or any damage it may cause.

376.6 References:

- **Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (U.S.).** 2011. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
- **National Institutes of Health (U.S.). Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare., United States.**



- **Public Health Service.** 2002. *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Bethesda, MD (6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda 20892-7982): Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, Dept. of Health and Human Services.
- **Federation of Animal Science Societies.** 2010. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*. Champaign, Il.: FASS, Federation of Animal Science Societies.
- **United States., United States. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.** 2005. *Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

376.7 Appendices:

- **Appendix I:** Questionnaire for Potential Animal Adopter
- **Appendix II:** Animal Adoption Agreement

Contact Information

Subject	Contact	Phone	Email
Clarification of Policy	Office of Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs – IACUC	404-712-0734	iacuc@emory.edu

Revision History

- Version Published on: 4/28/2022
- Revision: 5/4/2017



Appendix I Questionnaire for Animal Adopter

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone Number:

Check all that describe the prospective residence:

- Single-family home
- Apartment, duplex or other multi-family dwelling
- I own my home
- I rent my home (does landlord allow pets? (Yes or No_)
- Fenced yard
- Urban location
- Rural location
- Zoning restrictions on animals in prospective residence area

How did you hear about this animal?

Where will the animal stay while you're at work?

Give information about other pets in your home: breed, sex, age, health, and any other pertinent details.

Name the veterinarian who will provide health care for this animal once you have adopted it.

Animal to be adopted: Species:

Gender:

Signature Emory University Veterinarian

Date of Interview

Recommendation:

Approve adoption

Disapprove adoption (give reasons below)



Appendix II: Emory University Animal Adoption Agreement

Date:

I, _____, am adopting the animal described below from Emory University, and agree to be fully responsible for its future care, treatment, actions, and well-being.

The animal described below has been examined by Emory University veterinarian, Dr. _____.

The animal has been determined to appear to be both clinically healthy and suitable as a companion animal except as noted below. I acknowledge and agree that (just as with any physical examination) this does not guarantee that the animal to be adopted has no health issues, but that none are known based upon that examination.

I have been given a copy of the Emory University "Animal Adoption Agreement". Having read this document, I attest that I understand the terms under which I take ownership of this animal and agree to fully comply with all the conditions of adoption. Additionally, I have had an opportunity to ask any health and husbandry-related questions and each question has been answered to my full satisfaction.

In accepting this animal, I agree to care for it in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of my and/or the animal's place of residence, including but not limited to having the animal spayed or neutered if applicable, vaccinated against rabies and registering the animal with local animal control officials as required. I further agree not to use this animal as a food source or religious object or for any commercial purpose, including but not limited to breeding and exhibiting. I will not sell this animal. If I am subsequently unable or unwilling to care for this animal, I will notify the Emory University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Office prior to making other arrangements for its care.

By signing this agreement, I hereby release and indemnify the Emory University, its trustees, officers, employees and agents from any and all liability and expenses resulting from this adoption. I understand that the Emory University accepts no liability for the animal's continuing care or veterinary treatment, or for any damages arising from my ownership of the animal once it has been removed from the Emory University facility.

Animal Information:

Species/Breed:

Gender:

Age:

Description:

Identification:

Special Health or Behavioral Notations:

New Owner: Name (printed):

Emory University Veterinarian: Name (printed):

Address:

Signature New Owner

Signature Emory University Veterinarian
