

Definition of Laboratory Animal

The **Medical Sciences Campus' IACUC** is an appointed board of representatives from throughout the campus and community. The role of this committee is to ensure that all animals housed at the Medical Sciences Campus and used for research purposes are adequately cared for, and humanely treated. We are required by various federal agencies to review Animal Use Proposals and report on such use annually.

The definition of "animal" varies under specific federal regulations. Under the Animal Welfare Act, animal is defined as "any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warmblooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes: Birds, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research..."

The Public Health Service Policy defines an animal as "Any live, vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes".

AAALAC defines animal as "all animals used or to be used in research, teaching or testing at accreditable units are to be included and evaluated... This includes traditional laboratory animals, farm animals, wildlife, and aquatic animals. Nontraditional animals, inclusive of invertebrate species, are also included where they are relevant to the unit's mission".

At the Medical Sciences Campus, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has defined laboratory animal as;

**"All living vertebrate and invertebrate animals used at the
Medical Sciences Campus"**

If you are working with any laboratory animal as defined by IACUC, then all IACUC policies apply to your work with animals. This means that, any researcher working with vertebrate or invertebrate laboratory animals will have to complete the Animal Study Proposal Form or the Invertebrate Animal Study Proposal Form for an Initial Submission; and submit it to the IACUC office.

All the forms and the IACUC meeting calendar with deadlines to submit the documents to the Attending Veterinarian of the Facility and the IACUC office are at the Internet Web Page; <http://committees.rcm.upr.edu>



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