

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA POLICY ON IMAGES OF ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH AND/OR EDUCATION

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for regulating the use of animals at the University of Virginia. The use of animals for research and education is a very emotional issue for the public and one of significant concern for the IACUC. Each animal user at the University is a representative of the University and is responsible for shaping public perception of the humane and ethical treatment of research animals at our institution. This responsibility includes the appropriate appearance of visual images used for (but not limited to) presentations in scientific journals or at scientific meetings, videotaped material for instructional or data collection purposes, and printed material in articles and publications. The IACUC is particularly concerned about visual images because they can be edited, altered, copied and misused (or misrepresented) by unauthorized personnel. To address these concerns, the IACUC has developed the following policy on the use of visual images related to IACUC approved research at the University.

Visual imaging (consisting of traditional film based images and/or digital images) of research animals is restricted to educational/instructional and research purposes only. Each Principal Investigator is responsible for controlling the possession, use, and distribution of all visual images that they create.

It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to secure all visual images that he or she creates in a manner that will prevent uncontrolled duplication and distribution. Photographic images of animals used in research placed on a website are of particular concern since duplication and dissemination cannot be controlled. These images must be thoroughly evaluated for depiction of any aspect of research that might be offensive to, or misconstrued by, some members of the public. **No dissemination of any original image(s) or video(s), copy, or excerpt can be released to the media, an advertising agency, or anyone else outside of the University of Virginia without prior written approval of the IACUC and the Office of University Relations with the following exceptions:**

- Manuscripts for peer-reviewed scientific journals or book chapters
- Scientific meeting presentations
- Professional review groups
- Educational programs where a University faculty member monitors and approves the content of the program

Using animals for research and education is a privilege bestowed by the public trust. The IACUC is the extension of federal regulatory authority that works on behalf of the University to protect the public trust. The IACUC will work with the Principal Investigators to protect this

privilege. If the IACUC has evidence that any Principal Investigator or a representative from their laboratory is inappropriately using or distributing visual images of animals used in research or education, the IACUC has the authority and responsibility to suspend their use of laboratory animals.