



SUBJECT: Photography and Videography involving Research Animals	Effective Date: 5/5/2023	Policy Number: 10.4.27
	Supersedes: Policy 10.4.27 (initially adopted 1/27/2017; amended 1/24/2020)	Page Of 1 3
	Responsible Authorities: Vice President, Research Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Assistant Vice President for Research, Research Integrity Assistant Vice President for Research, Comparative Medicine	

- I. Background
 There are scientific advantages for the use of images of animals for research, teaching or testing purposes. The prevalent use of social media and accessibility of photo and video-recording devices may result in photographs and videos (referred to in this policy as *images*) taken of research animals being used out of context by groups opposed to research involving animals.

- II. Purpose
 The purpose of this policy is to outline procedures regarding images of research animals used in social media or other media outlets.

- III. General Statement
 FAU and its Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee are committed to protecting the confidentiality and integrity of animal research, to protecting the privacy and safety interests of research personnel and staff and to protecting the health and welfare of research animals. It is of importance for researchers to be mindful of their use of images of research animals, as the images may be subject to the disclosure requirements of public records requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Florida's Public Records Laws. Any images of a research animal must be in accordance with this policy so to ensure the fair and accurate portrayal of the University's research enterprise.

Policy Number:	
10.4.27	
Page	of
2	3

IV. Policy

1. Any images taken of research animals are prohibited unless documented on an approved IACUC protocol or amendment.
2. Distribution of images of animals are not permitted to be posted to any type of social media unless approved by the IACUC, and/or Research Integrity / IACUC administration.
3. The IACUC has the authority to require and/or prohibit certain requests.
4. Only research personnel listed on the approved IACUC protocol describing the use of images are permitted to take those images.
5. The Principal Investigator must approve all images taken of animals on the approved IACUC protocol.
6. Comparative Medicine staff are permitted to use images for veterinary medical purposes. An approved IACUC protocol is not required for veterinary clinical care.
7. Government regulatory agencies are permitted to use images for agency purposes.
8. Images must be stored on a secure password protected computer or server and the original image and all meta data must be deleted immediately from the image device.

V. Definitions

Devices include cameras, video recorders, audio recorders, computer-mounted video capture units, and mobile cellphone or tablet cameras.

Images are any photographs or video recording (digital or analog)

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 images through an IACUC protocol.
- Informing and assuring that all Research personnel read, understand, and follow this policy.
- Approving all images taken of research animals.
- Assuring high standards for the health and well-being of animals used in images.

The Office of Comparative Medicine (CM):

- Informs and assures that all Comparative Medicine personnel understand and follow this policy.
- Assures high standards for the health and well-being of research animals used in images.

The IACUC will:

- Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval) or withhold approval of IACUC protocols/amendments of the procedures described for images of research animals.
- Provide oversight and guidance for all animal procedures conducted including the use of images of research animals.

Policy Number:	
10.4.27	
Page	of
3	3

The Research Integrity office:

- Administratively supports the IACUC to facilitate their regulatory function.
- Maintains policy and assures regular review and update as necessary by the IACUC.

VII. Procedures

1. Procedures shown in the images must be an approved method described in the protocol.
2. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by all personnel shown in the image.
3. Appropriate methods of handling and restraint must be used while photographing or videotaping research animals.
4. Research animals must have clean surroundings or cages with clean accessories. Water bottles and feeders must be filled if shown in the images.
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 images. This includes displaying meta data, locations, names of personnel, institutions, buildings, room numbers or cage cards.
7. All personnel should be unidentified when visible in the image.

VIII. References

University of Pennsylvania IACUC Guidelines.

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

POLICY APPROVAL

Initiating Authority

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: Gregg B. Fields, Ph.D., Interim Vice President for Research

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