May 26, 2015

To: All FAU Animal Research Investigators

Re: Authority of the Attending Veterinarian regarding Animals Being Used for Research, Testing and Teaching at Florida Atlantic University (FAU)

Dear Colleagues,

This memo is to emphasize the authority of the FAU Attending Veterinarian (AV) in particular and other veterinarians reporting to the AV for assuring animal well-being for all research and teaching animal subjects and for managing the program of veterinary care.

USDA regulations state that “each research facility shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use” (Animal Welfare Regulations 9 CFR, Section 2.33).

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide) states “the institution must provide the AV with sufficient authority, including access to all animals, resources to manage the program of veterinary care”, and “if the investigator and veterinary staff cannot reach consensus on treatment, the veterinarian must have the authority to treat the animal, remove it from the experiment, institute appropriate measures to relieve severe pain or distress, or perform euthanasia if necessary”.

In order to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care, it is institutional policy that the Attending Veterinarian and other veterinarians reporting to the AV have the ultimate authority in determining the need for medical treatment or euthanasia of animals in all research and teaching activities at FAU.

The Attending Veterinarian and other veterinarians reporting to the AV will make every attempt to seek the investigator’s input should an emergency arise with one of the research animals, but whether or not contact is possible, the course of action will be guided by professional veterinary judgement. The Attending Veterinarian and veterinarians reporting to her/him have full institutional support in exercising the responsibility of preventing pain or suffering in FAU animals.

Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the IACUC Chair (Dr. Janet Blanks at 561-297-4310), the FAU AV (Dr. Sylvia Gografe at 561-297-4233) or the Director, Research Integrity (Elisa Gaucher at 561-297-2318).

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Flynn, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Institutional Official