Principles: An investigator should use the minimum number of animals to get reliable results. Sharing tissue is highly encouraged because using shared tissue should reduce the total number of animals. It is also important to identify the source of all animal products to ensure the safety of all personnel.

1. Use of animal tissues requiring live animals
   A. Tissues used only from animals assigned to the investigator's own protocol
      a. The investigator writes a standard animal use protocol, identifies the species, the number of animals required, justifications, etc. The Principal Investigator (PI) and Veterinary Services must account for every animal used.
   B. Tissues obtained from animals assigned to another protocol
      a. If the protocol did not originally anticipate sharing, it must be amended or an animal products form must be completed.
      b. If tissues will be obtained from another protocol and additional animals may be needed to get enough tissues:
         i. Submit the standard animal use protocol for the total number of animals required as if no tissues were to be shared.
         ii. Keep track of the number of animals to provide the shared tissues. When the continuing review form is completed, the investigator must indicate how many animals he/she used (euthanized for tissues) and how many animals from which "shared" tissues were received. The number of "shared" animals must be subtracted from the total number of animals required and approved by the IACUC.
      c. Example: Investigator needs tissue from 100 mice. 10 are control animals with no special requirement. So tissues from 5 control animals from another protocol were available and used on this protocol. The animals providing shared tissue will be counted as
animals used in the source protocol under which they were euthanized as well as the recipient protocol, which only used "shared" tissue.

2. Use of animal tissues not requiring live animals
   A. When investigators only require tissue that can be obtained from a dead animal whose death was not due to the need for the tissues:
      a. An Animal Product Protocol must be completed (simple, one page document). The tissue used must be obtained from an acceptable source such as an USDA inspected slaughterhouse or from an in house animal that was euthanized for other purposes (an IACUC approved protocol).
      b. No tracking is required.
      c. Example: Investigator #1 needs a calf liver to do ultrasounds. Investigator #2 wants to try a new in vitro reagent on some liver tissue so asks investigator #1 to save the liver for his/her use. Investigator #2 must submit an animal products protocol form, referencing the source of the tissue.

Note: In the protocol that provides the tissues (the source), a statement is required that tissues are being used by another investigator. (Recipient protocols normally state that all unused tissues are incinerated.)