

**Subject: Fluid and Tissue Use**

Source: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)  
Effective Date: 04/12/21  
Replaces: 03/01/12  
Applies to: Personnel involved in research or teaching studies involving animals  
Reference: Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals; Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals



**Introduction**

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) maintains oversight review for federally mandated rules and regulations with regard to animal research, ethics, misconduct and biomedical research for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver | Anschutz).

**Policy Statement**

This policy is intended to provide information on the requirements of fluid and tissue use and to establish procedures to be followed.

- A CU Denver | Anschutz IACUC animal use application is NOT required for experimental use of animal blood or tissues obtained from any collaborators on or off-campus.
- However, the form for In vitro Use of Blood, Fluid or Tissues for Research or Teaching which describes the source, use and justification for the blood, fluid or tissue use **IS** required under the following circumstances. The form can be found under the Forms Section of the IACUC website (<https://research.cuanschutz.edu/committee-support/home/iacuc-home/forms-olar>) and should be sent to the IACUC Office when completed ( [IACUC@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:IACUC@cuanschutz.edu) ).
  - This form is to cover blood, fluid and tissue use for investigators that do not have an approved IACUC protocol or IBC approval but wish to use USDA covered animal fluids or tissues.
    - a. USDA covered species are: all warm-blooded vertebrate animals, excluding purpose bred mice and rats.
    - b. Examples:
      - Tissue obtained from a slaughter house for teaching or testing.
      - Tissue obtained from euthanized pigs on the CU AMC campus for teaching or testing.
  - Exemptions: This form is not required if any of the below conditions are met:
    - a. If the investigator has an approved IACUC protocol or IBC approval that covers the species for which the tissues/fluid that will be obtained.
    - b. Commercially available animal products that are certified to be pathogen-free are exempt from this policy.
    - c. Purpose bred mice or rats, or other non-USDA covered species that are from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus or from off campus locations.
  - The submission of this form:
    - a. Assures that the IACUC and veterinary staff are aware of the use of the animal fluids or tissues on the campus.
    - b. Assures that occupational health issues with certain tissues (e.g. primate, sheep) are appropriately addressed.
    - c. Assures that other health and safety issues (e.g. storage disposal etc.) have been addressed.
- Additional considerations and review of the form may occur due to the following:
  - Certain materials are [embargoed from import into or transportation](#) within the U.S.
  - Some materials may be subject to further review by the Institutional Biosafety Committee <https://research.cuanschutz.edu/committee-support/home/institutional-biosafety-committee> or the Biosafety Office, depending on the origin of the materials and the potential for transmitting zoonotic disease.
  - Some materials may be subject to federal permits for transporting or importing. The PI is responsible for consulting the following federal agencies, applying for and receiving the appropriate permits, prior to requesting materials:
    - a. Any Endangered Species, contact the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#).
    - b. Any other animal or animal products, contact [USDA-APHIS, Veterinary Services](#).
    - c. Any animal or animal product that may cause human disease, to include live bats, and

any materials from non-human primates, contact the [CDC Permit Program](#).

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.