



Policy for Transfer of Animals Between Protocols

Objective:	Define the conditions for research animal transfer from one protocol to another
Author:	Attending Veterinarian, Laboratory Animal Resources
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Scope

The Animal Care Program at UNC Charlotte encourages the sharing of animals as an effective application of the 3 Rs (Russell and Burch, 1959). In the spirit of conserving animals, it is reasonable and appropriate for one Principal Investigator (PI) to transfer unused or extra animals to another PI rather than euthanizing such animals. In addition, it is appropriate for an investigator to transfer animals from one of their protocols to another protocol. However, it is necessary that animal numbers be properly tracked and likewise, animals should not be over- utilized. This policy describes the conditions under which a transfer may occur and the procedures to be followed.

Overview

Animals can be transferred from one research protocol to another when certain conditions are met, as described below. The Animal Transfer Form must be signed by representatives of all laboratories involved *and* an IACUC approved designee.

NOTE: Remaining live animals being transferred from an ongoing protocol to a continuation of the same protocol are exempted (i.e., this policy does not apply).

Process/Procedures

- a) Each transfer form must be approved by a vivarium team member prior to the transfer.
- b) Each transfer into a protocol is counted against the approved total on the destination protocol. In the case that an animal is transferred into a protocol multiple times, each transfer of that animal is deducted from the approved total.
- c) Animals can be transferred from one protocol to another protocol *with no restrictions* if the animals to be transferred are purpose-bred or purchased surplus animals (animals not used on an assigned protocol) from an existing project and have not been manipulated surgically or experimentally.
 - **Restriction:** If the animals to be transferred have been manipulated surgically or experimentally, the animals can be used **ONLY** for terminal surgical procedures (i.e., tissue harvest) or non-surgical procedures (e.g., injections, blood draws, behavior analysis).
 - **Restriction:** If animals have been used for research in an initial protocol and are being transferred, they cannot be subsequently used in a protocol with a higher pain category. This does not refer to surplus animals or animals from breeding protocols.
- d) In order for **any transfer** to take place, an Animal Transfer Form must be completed prior to the transfer. (This step ensures proper documentation of animal numbers for compliance purposes.)

- When transferring animals between Principal Investigators (i.e., different labs), an authorized member of each laboratory must agree to the transfer and sign the Animal Transfer Form.
- e) Until the transfer is completed, per diem charges will be charged to the original protocol/PI. The number of animals transferred will be subtracted from the approved total number of animals on the census of the original protocol and added to the protocol of the accepting investigator.

References

Russell, W.M.S and Burch, R.L. *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique*. 1959.

National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2011.

Revision History

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