

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES

Chapter 7	Research and Sponsored Programs	Effective:	June 2000
Section 7.4	Institutional Program for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals	Revised:	November 2004
Policy 7.4.2	Departmental Animal Research Officers	Responsibility:	Vice President for Research

DEPARTMENTAL ANIMAL RESEARCH OFFICERS

Responsibilities

Each academic department has a Departmental Animal Research Officer (DARO) appointed by and reporting to the department Chair. The central responsibility of the DARO is to provide documented assurance to the Chair that practices of department personnel, including faculty, students, and staff, that relate to animal welfare are in accord with the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, international requirements, as well as in compliance with University rules and regulations regarding the use of laboratory animals. The DARO is available to meet and consult with Principal Investigators and their staff to assist researchers in compliance with the requirements of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)* and the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) through peer review and guidance. To be prepared for this task, the DARO receives support and information from the veterinarians, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and other University staff on the responsible care and use of research animals as stated in the *Guide*, the *Public Health Service Policy*, the *U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training and Use of Animals*, and the AWA.

The DARO is authorized to enter any and all laboratories in the department and give counsel on appropriate practices with regard to the care and use of animals. The DARO is present during the IACUC's inspection of departmental animal facilities to act as liaison between the inspectors and the investigators. The DARO works with the Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) veterinarians in assisting faculty should deficiencies be found during laboratory inspections. Similarly, the DARO is expected to consult with the Director of LAR or IACUC Chair to resolve any matters discovered during discussions with department investigators.

In addition, the DARO will facilitate the training program and the occupational health program by acting as a source of information about these subjects.
