Policy on Laboratory Animal Adoption

1. Purpose

This document establishes policy and provides procedures for adoption of "retired" research animals from the University of South Alabama.

2. Applicability

This policy applies to research animals meeting the eligibility criteria detailed in section 4.1.

3. Definitions

“3R’s” - Replacement, refinement, reduction.

“4th R” - Retirement.

ACLAM - American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Adoption - The process of taking responsibility for an animal that the university released for retirement.

OLAW - Office of Laboratory animal Welfare.

Research Animals - Animals owned by the University used for biomedical research or teaching.

4. Policy Guidelines

ACLAM and OLAW are supportive of animal adoption. In certain cases of non-terminal research use of animals, breeding of extra animals or ordering and receipt of animals unable to be used in the intended research, adoption into a private home shall be permitted by the
University of South Alabama IACUC. Adoption is done in consultation with the principal investigator and orchestrated the Department of Comparative Medicine. Adoption is at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian.

4.1 Eligibility

- Animals that have undergone a major surgical procedure will only be adopted out at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.
- Animals which have been exposed to infectious microbes are not eligible for adoption.
- Animals must be adopted as personal or family pets only and may not be sold.
- Animals may not be used for any commercial purpose, including but not limited to exhibiting.
- Animals must not be used for food (human or animal consumption).
- The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior.
- The animal must be spayed/neutered prior to adoption.
- The adopter is willing to accept responsibility for any future medical care/support as may be required.

4.2 Potential New Owner Eligibility

- University employees and students are eligible to adopt animals.
- Members of the public are eligible provided that they are referred by a university employee or student.
- Potential adopters will be screened by the veterinarian for their suitability, knowledge of the care of the type of animal, and qualifications.

5. Procedures

5.1 Application Process

- Forms
  The potential adopter must complete the Questionnaire for Animal Adoption and the Animal Adoption Form. These forms are submitted to the IACUC/IBC Administrator or the Attending Veterinarian.

- Review of forms
  The Attending Veterinarian and an additional IACUC Committee member will review the forms as submitted. The Attending Veterinarian will check references and meet with the potential adopter.

- Application approval
  The Attending veterinarian and committee member will make a recommendation to the
IACUC at the next convened meeting. The animal cannot be adopted or leave the vivarium without IACUC approval.

- **Required documentation for USDA species**
  Form 7020 (“Record of Disposition of Animals other than Dogs and Cats”) must be completed upon transfer of ownership to the adopter.

### 6. Enforcement

The IACUC has final authority to approve or disapprove adoption applications. The Attending Veterinarian has final authority to assess an animal’s eligibility. Once the research animal has been adopted and has been removed from the vivarium, the University cannot assume responsibility for the animal, even if the adopter must release the animal from his/her care (as stated in the Animal Adoption Form).

### 7. Related Documents

ACLAM Position Statement on the Adoption of Research Animals:  
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5710161/

Homes for Animal Heroes:  
https://homesforanimalheroes.com/

Attachments:  
Questionnaire for Animal Adoption  
Animal Adoption Form
Questionnaire for Animal Adoption

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________

________________________________________________
________________________________________________

E-mail: __________________________________________
Phone Number: ____________________________________

Check all that describe the prospective residence:

___ Single-family home
___ Apartment, duplex or other multi-family dwelling
___ I own my home
___ I rent my home (does landlord allow pets?______)
___ Fenced yard
___ Urban location
___ Rural location
___ Zoning restrictions on animals in prospective residence area

How did you hear about this animal? ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Where will the animal stay while you’re at work? _________________________
Give information about how you plan to house your pet. You may attach a reference or picture of the enclosure if that is more appropriate.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Name the veterinarian who will provide health care for this animal once you have adopted it.
_________________________________________________________________________

Animal to be adopted: Species: ___________________   Gender: _____ID: ___________  
_________________________________________________________________________

Date _____________

Recommendation for FCR:
_____ Approve adoption       _____ Disapprove adoption (give reasons below)
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

______________________________  ______________________________
Signature of IACUC member       Signature of IACUC member
Animal Adoption Form

1. I accept the adoption of the animal described below from the University of South Alabama (USA). I understand that health problems may exist and that USA does not make any expressed or implied guarantees relative to the health or temperament of the animal.

2. I accept responsibility for the care of the animal described below and will make all reasonable attempts to care for this animal in a manner that is generally considered appropriate for a pet of this species.

3. The animal described below is to be a pet for me and my immediate family. I understand that it is not to be sold, given away, or otherwise released from my care unless extreme circumstances require the same. If the animal described below must be released from my care, I will make every attempt to secure a satisfactory home environment for it. I am aware that USA cannot accept the animal in the case that it must be released from my care.

4. I acknowledge and accept that:
   - Owning, possessing and caring for any lab animal carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries.
   - The animal may have been the subject of research.
   - Animal behavior is unpredictable and animals may injure people, other animals or property.
   - The animal may carry or be infected with organisms, bacteria or protozoa, which can cause problems in humans.
   - There is no way to write a complete list of all possible risks of owning and caring for any animal, including this animal.

5. Even though I have been informed of all this, I am willing to assume all risks of owning, possessing and caring for the animal, including the risk of harm to any third parties. Accordingly, I assume responsibility and agree to hold harmless USA and its trustees, officers, employees, and agents, regarding any claim, costs, liabilities or expenses of any kind that may arise from my adoption, possession or control of the animal described below.

6. I have read and understand the foregoing and voluntarily sign this Animal Adoption Form with full knowledge of its significance and intending to be bound by its terms. I have had an opportunity to consult with a lawyer or other advisor of my choice before signing.

Species: ___________________________ Breed or Type: ___________________________

Identifying Marks/Color: ___________________________

Sex: _______ Age: _______ Weight: _______ Source of Animal (Protocol #): ___________

Vaccination History of Animal: _____________________________________________________

Medical/Behavioral Information: ___________________________________________________

Person Adopting Animal

For dog and cat dispositions only -- the Animal Welfare Act requires the following additional information:

Method of transportation (circle) Car    Truck    Other (describe) _______________________

Name of owner of vehicle ___________________________________________________________

Vehicle License Number/State ______________________________________________________

Drivers License (or State ID) Number ________________________________________________
Adoption Form

Full Name (Print): ________________________________
Phone No: __________________ Date of Acquisition: __________________
Address: __________________
Signature: ________________________________

Principal Investigator Approval
Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

IACUC Chair Approval
Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

Attending Veterinarian Approval
Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________