

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS



ANIMAL ETHICS POLICY

FOREWARD

Animal ethics in research and teaching is current global best practices that ensure appropriate care are given to animals and the University of Lagos affirms her compliance to these standards as encapsulated by the principles of the 3Rs - Replacement Reduction and Refinement. The proper handling of animals used for research describes our human nature and should be upheld at all times because of our value for life.

This policy provides the required governance on animal use and care as well as the description of our compliance system that assures global best practices in the conduct of scientific research.

Thank you.

Prof. Oluwatoyin T. Ogundipe *FAS*

Vice-Chancellor

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1.0 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out provisions to ensure that animal research and teaching practices in the **University of Lagos** (herein referred to as **The University**) are ethical, responsible and consistent with international and national policies, legislations and guidelines.

1.2 SCOPE

This policy and its associated procedures apply to all research and teaching conducted in the University of Lagos, regardless of the source of funding supporting the activity. The policy is applicable to all staff, Post-doctoral fellows and students conducting research or teaching at the university or outside the university that involves animals.

1.3 PREAMBLE

The University of Lagos affirms to the following:

- Humans have an obligation to respect animals and to appreciate that they are sensitive to pain, respond to stress and may remember such experiences.
- Use of animals in experiments should be justified fully and that discomfort, stress and distress should be kept to a minimum or, ideally, avoided.
- The principles of replacement, reduction and refinement (3Rs) of animals in research and teaching.
- Adherence with relevant guidelines, rules and regulations regarding the use of animals for teaching and research.
- Optimal care of experimental animals is essential in the interests of both animals and research. The major reasons for this proposition are:
 - First, proper care and use promote the welfare of animals and contributes to the attainment of high ethical and humane standards expected of a civilized society.
 - Secondly, it is expensive to use animals in experiments. Experimental animals, which are housed in poor facilities or are suffering from disease produce poor, unreliable and unrepeatable results and are wasteful of resources.
- Working with animals is essential to her objectives of teaching and research and therefore supports the controlled use of animals in these activities.

Consequently, The University is committed to:

- Maintaining and improving the health and well-being of animals used in teaching and research; maintaining and improving the health and well-being of humans by controlling diseases shared with animals, by exploring parallels between animal and human disease, by the study of normal function and by developing the therapeutic potential of animals as companions; and broadening the foundations of biological

sciences, including knowledge and understanding of life processes in all animal species.

- The University is committed to the following principles concerning such use of animals:
 - Alternatives to using animals must be considered and animals must only be used when no practical alternatives are available
 - The expected benefits must outweigh the harm to the animals and active steps must be taken to minimize harm and maximize the benefits.
 - Proposals to use animals for teaching and research must be approved by the University's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC).

2.0 USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH

The use of animals in research is an essential component of the advancement of our understanding of human and animal function. This knowledge is important for advancing human and animal health and welfare through disease prevention and cures, new treatments and drug and device development. As a responsible Institution, the University of Lagos Scientific community understands that animal use for research is a privilege entrusted by the society and the University remains committed to ensuring that animal health and welfare is an integral consideration in biomedical research involving animals. To this end, the principles of the 3Rs shall be used by the University's scientific community to guide the responsible use of animals in scientific and / or educational activities.

The following shall guide the use of animals for research:

- a. Animals shall be used for research only when necessary and only when their use is scientifically and ethically justified.
- b. The principle of the three Rs - Replacement Reduction and Refinement - shall be incorporated into the design and conduct of scientific and / or educational activities that involve animals.
- c. When there are no alternatives such as mathematical modelling, computer simulation or in - vitro biological experiments or other non-animal approaches to animal use, the minimum number of animals should be used to achieve the scientific or educational goals.
- d. Cost and convenience must not take precedence over these principles.

The University shall ensure that decisions regarding the welfare, care and use of animals are guided by scientific knowledge and professional judgment. Such decisions shall reflect ethical and societal values and consider the potential benefit and the impact of the well-being of the animal(s) involved.

2.1 Approval

All protocols for research involving the use of animals shall be approved by the AEC.

2.2 Responsibility

The Principal Investigator (PI) shall be held responsible for all aspects of the research involving the use and care of animal. The PI shall ensure compliance with the provisions guiding the use of animals.

3.0 USE OF ANIMALS FOR TEACHING

Animals used for educational purposes should not be used to discover, prove or develop new ideas or techniques, but rather to demonstrate principles, which are already well known, or to learn manual skills and techniques.

The repetitive use of animals in this manner should be based on sound ethical justification and proven educational objectives. Justification should be provided for the use of animals over the use of alternatives i.e. models, videos, computer simulations and emulations, *etc.*

3.1 Approval

Approval shall be obtained for the use of animals for teaching by the AEC.

3.2 Responsibility

Teachers, instructors and supervisors shall ensure that students are aware of and comply with the provisions guiding the use of animals and the procedures of the AEC.

4.0 ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

Research procedures involving animals shall conform to the University of Lagos Research and Innovation Policy, Research Ethics Policy and Guideline for the use of Animals in Research and Teaching, National and International Animal Welfare Guidelines and the applicable federal regulations, policies, and guidelines regarding personnel, supervision, record keeping and veterinary care.

A central University and College/Faculty Animal Ethics Committee shall be established. This shall be called The University of Lagos Animal Ethics Committee (ULAEC) and the University of Lagos Faculty Animal Ethics Committee (ULFAEC) respectively.

The ULAEC is the central University Committee and shall provide oversight functions to the Faculty Animal Ethics Committee and where applicable review and approve proposals (including undergraduate students research proposals) for the use of animals in research and teaching. Other functions of ULAEC are described in the *Guideline for the Use of Animals for Research and Teaching of the University of Lagos*.

The University of Lagos Faculty Animal Ethics Committee (ULFAEC) shall be domiciled in College and Faculties of the university where animals are used for teaching

and research and approve all proposals for research and teaching involving animals (including undergraduate research projects).

4.1 Composition of the University of Lagos Animal Ethics Committee (ULAEC)

- a. Members of the University of Lagos Animal Ethics Committee shall be appointed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics and Research (DVC [A&R]). This committee shall serve as the clearing house for all animal ethics issues in the University and shall have a Chair and Vice-Chair person.
- b. Membership of the Committee shall be drawn from the University of Lagos Faculty Animal Ethics Committee.
- c. Tenure of membership shall be for four years and renewable following approved Standard Procedures guiding the operation of the Committee.
- d. Other functions of ULAEC are described in the *Guideline for the Use of Animals for Research and Teaching of the University of Lagos*.
- e. The composition of the committee shall be made up of 7-13 members that should include at least the following:
 - I. A minimum of four faculty members (each from Faculties of Sciences and Pharmacy and two from the College of Medicine [Faculties of Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences and Dental Sciences}) that are experienced in animal care and use for research.
 - II. A veterinarian that is experienced in animal care and use.
 - III. A Faculty member from the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities or Management whose normal activities do not depend on or involve animal use for research and teaching.
 - IV. A layman from the Community who has nothing to do with the University except serving on the committee.
 - V. The Manager of the University Laboratory Animal Centre.
 - VI. A representative of Works and Physical Planning that is in charge of Environmental Health and Safety.

4.2 Composition of the University of Lagos College/Faculty Animal Ethics Committee (ULFAEC)

- a. Members of the University of Lagos Faculty Animal Ethics Committee shall be appointed by the Provost of College/Dean of the Faculty where animals are used for research and teaching. The Committee shall have a Chair and Vice-Chair person.

- b. Membership of the Committee shall be for four years and renewable following approved Standard Procedures guiding the operation of the Committee.
- c. The nomenclature of the College or Faculty Animal Ethics Committee shall derive from the College or Faculty where it is domiciled. The *Guideline for the Use of Animals for Research and Teaching of the University of Lagos* shall guide the nomenclature.
- d. Other functions of ULAEC are described in the *Guideline for the Use of Animals for Research and Teaching of the University of Lagos*.
- e. The composition of the committee shall be made up of 7-13 members that should include at least the following:
 - I. A minimum of four faculty members (each from Faculties of Sciences and Pharmacy and two from the College of Medicine [Faculties of Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences and Dental Sciences]) that are experienced in animal care and use for research.
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 - IV. A layman from the Community who has nothing to do with the University except serving on the committee.
 - V. The Manager of the University Laboratory Animal Centre.
 - VI. A representative of Works and Physical Planning that is in charge of Environmental Health and Safety.

4.3 Secretariat of the Animal Ethics Committee

The secretariat of the University of Lagos Animal Ethics Committee (ULAEC) shall be the Research Ethics Unit of the Research and Innovation Office while those of the College/Faculties shall be the Research Management Office of the College and appropriate Office in the Faculties.

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING

5.1 Operationalization of The Animal Care Facility

The operationalization of the Animal Care Facility of the University of Lagos shall be based on best global practices. Details are provided in the *Guideline for the Use of Animals for Research and Teaching of the University of Lagos*.

5.2 Exchange of Animals Between Institutions

Any exchange or transfer of animals between institutions or investigators shall be approved by the AEC. Transfer details shall have information on the history of the animals, evidence of captive breeding where that is claimed, and the facilities that the animal has previously resided in.

6.0 SAFETY, SECURITY AND CARE OF ANIMALS

Appropriate safety, security and care procedures for animals shall be complied with using standard guidelines.

7.0 TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF RESEARCHERS AND ANIMAL CARE FACILITY PERSONNEL

Standardized training shall be provided for members of the AEC and other members of the University involved in the use of animal for research and teaching. In addition, individuals involved in specialized activities using animals for research and teaching shall be certified appropriately.

ANNEXES

1. *Guideline for the Use of Animals for Research and Teaching of the University of Lagos*
2. Protocol submission forms for ethical approval.
3. Guidelines for review of protocols

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Animal Ethics Policy was drafted by the following faculty members:

1. Prof. Wellington A. Oyibo – Research & Innovation Office
2. Prof. A.A.A. Osinubi - Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
3. Dr. Ahmed Oloyo – Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
4. Dr. A. Sowemimo – Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy.
5. Dr. I. Iwajemo – Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science.

Management Review

The Animal Ethics Policy was developed under the leadership of Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe *FAS*, Vice-Chancellor. Members of Management, Prof. Ben. E. A. Oghojafor (Deputy Vice-Chancellor [Management Services]), Prof. Mrs. Folasade. T. Ogunsola, Deputy Vice-Chancellor [Development Services]), Dr. Mrs. Taiwo Ipaye (Registrar), Prof. F. E. A. Lesi (Provost, College of Medicine), Dr. Mrs. Olukemi Fadehan (University Librarian), Mr. Lekan Lawal (Bursar), Prof. Solomon O. Okunuga (Director, Academic Planning), Prof. Lucian O. Chukwu (Director, Quality Assurance), and Engr. A. Ayeye (Ag. Director of Works and Physical Planning).

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