IACUC Policy # 500: Primary Clinical Veterinary Care Performed by Non-CARE Veterinarians

The intent of this policy is to describe the primary clinical veterinary care requirements for Cornell-owned animals by non-CARE veterinarians.

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1. Policy
   a. The Attending Veterinarian (AV) is responsible for the veterinary care program for Cornell-owned animals. The clinical veterinary care responsibility is delegated to clinical veterinarians and veterinary technologists who are part of the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE) veterinary staff.
   b. In very limited cases, the primary clinical care of Cornell-owned animals can be provided by a non-CARE veterinarian/species expert if the request is approved by the AV or his/her designee.
   c. The arrangement must be formalized in a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the non-CARE veterinarian(s)/species expert(s) and the AV*.

2. Procedure
   a. Upon a Principal Investigator’s request, each veterinarian/veterinary group/species expert wishing to provide primary clinical care of Cornell-owned animals must submit a request to the AV*, including justification for the request and other details specified in Appendix 1. The request form is available in Appendix 1 or upon request from CARE.
   b. If the AV* approves the request, the AV* will provide a LOA (for example, see Appendix 2) which includes the following:
      • Requirement of and mechanism for direct communication between the primary clinical veterinarian(s)/species expert and CARE. The mechanism must ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to a CARE veterinarian on problems associated with animal health, behavior, well-being and other factors that may be included as deemed appropriate by the AV*.
      • Confirmation that each veterinarian/species expert on the LOA has completed the appropriate regulatory training (e.g. Module 1) as required by the IACUC

*or his/her designee
• Requirements and responsibility for maintaining complete and timely medical records as specified by the AV*.

c. Prompt animal care must be provided when directed by the AV, and supplementary reports provided if requested by the AV* and/or IACUC.

d. Where there are concerns about animal welfare or imminent danger to animals or human health, if the non-CARE veterinarian is not available, or if agreement cannot be reached, the CARE veterinarian has authority to act to protect the health and well-being of institutional animals and will make the final decision regarding the disposition of the animal.

e. The LOA is valid for 1 year, with annual renewal, unless otherwise specified by the AV*.

f. The AV* reserves the right to revoke the LOA if there are violations of the terms and requirements of the LOA.

g. The clinical care arrangement, including the names of the non-CARE veterinarians, is noted in an approved IACUC protocol (Section 13.6 in eSirius).

3. Regulatory Guidance

a. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (ILAR, 2011) [the Guide] (Ch. 4 “Veterinary Care”, page 106)

“The veterinary care program is the responsibility of the Attending Veterinarian, who is certified or has training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine or is otherwise qualified in the care of the species being used. Some aspects of the veterinary care program can be conducted by persons other than a veterinarian, but a mechanism for direct and frequent communication should be established to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the responsible veterinarian about issues associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being, and appropriate treatment or euthanasia is administered.”

b. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations USDA/APHIS 2.33(a)(2)

“Each research facility shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.”

c. USDA Policy #3 Veterinary Care


g. Cornell Policy 1.4 Care and Use of Animals in Research and Teaching

*or his/her designee

Approved by the IACUC November 17, 2011; Revised June 19, 2014; June 15, 2017
Appendix 1

Request for non-CARE veterinarian/species expert to provide primary clinical care

To the Attending Veterinarian (AV):

I am/we are requesting permission to provide primary clinical care for the following:

Species:

Protocol number (if applicable):

Location/facility:

Reason for request (e.g. species expertise, distant physical location):

Name(s), title, and contact information for each person covered by this request:

___________________________________________________________________________

Request: Approved/Not approved
Reviewed by:___________________________ (AV or designee)
Date:___________________________

Appendix 2

Sample Letter of Agreement
Date:

In compliance with IACUC policy on Primary Veterinary Care (IACUC005), this document describes primary veterinary care provided by:

Dr. --------------
Address: 
Office: 607-……
Fax: 607-……
E-mail: ……………

Dr. [non-CARE vet] has completed Module 1 training, and is aware of the regulations and Cornell policies pertaining to animals used for research &/or teaching. The importance of documenting interventions and treatments in medical records has been emphasized.

Dr. [non-CARE vet] and Dr. [A.V./CARE vet] have agreed on the following mechanism of direct and regular communication to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to a CARE veterinarian regarding animal health, behavior, and well-being:

-Complete medical/procedural records are maintained in the animal facilities and/or research lab. These records must be made available for review upon request by the Attending Veterinarian and his/her designee, as well as the IACUC.
-A monthly summary of medical/health issues will be sent to the CARE-Letters of Agreement mailbox (CARELOA@cornell.edu), or communicated via monthly meetings
-Emergent issues that require immediate action (serious illnesses or injuries affecting health, or deviations from the approved protocol) are communicated via phone or e-mail.

• Where there are concerns about animal welfare or imminent danger to animals or human health, if the non-CARE veterinarian is not available, or if agreement cannot be reached, the CARE veterinarian has authority to act to protect the health and well-being of institutional animals and will make the final decision regarding the disposition of the animal.

Signatures:

________________________  ______________________
Dr. ……………………  Dr. [A.V./CARE vet]