

USE OF ANIMAL TISSUES (PRODUCTS) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Principles: UVM is committed to reducing the number of animals used in research. Tissue sharing is strongly encouraged as this allows investigators to collect fresh tissue without euthanizing additional animals.

Change in Policy for IACUC Oversight of Animal Tissue Activity: For many years the IACUC has required prior and continuing review of tissue or by-product activities in an effort to afford additional protection of research animals. After a thorough review of similar institutional procedures in this regard, as well as re-reviewing PHS regulations and contacting the USDA, we have concurred that continued IACUC review of these activities does not add any additional protections.

Effective immediately the new policy is as follows:

For Investigators Donating Tissue

UVM investigators who must euthanize their animals under an approved protocol for experimental requirements are encouraged to donate post-mortem tissue to other UVM investigators and can do so without prior IACUC review and approval. It is the donating investigator's responsibility to communicate any biosafety issues associated with the tissue.

If UVM investigators wish to share tissue outside of UVM they should contact UVM's Office of Technology Transfer to determine if a Material Transfer Agreement is recommended prior to releasing the tissues. Go to this link for more information
<http://www.uvm.edu/~ospuvvm/Forms/OutgoingMTAs.htm>

For Investigators Receiving Tissue

UVM investigators who wish to use leftover tissue from other UVM IACUC protocols can do so without submitting a separate tissue protocol. The IACUC does not need to review this activity as all live animal use protocols at UVM have been reviewed and approved previously. The use of the tissue activity no longer requires review.

UVM investigators wishing to use tissue from institutions outside of UVM should obtain their tissues only from acceptable sources. Acceptable sources would be other institutions that have obtained IACUC approval for an animal use protocol, preserved specimens from corporate labs, or a USDA inspected slaughterhouse. If the materials come in with a Material Transfer Agreement, UVM researchers need to work with the Office of Technology Transfer. Go to this link for more information <http://www.uvm.edu/~ospuvvm/Forms/IncomingMTAs.htm>.