



Animal Use Protocol for the Veterinary Technology Program

The following protocol has been developed to address the use of on-campus domestic animals in teaching veterinary technics in the Veterinary Technology Program of the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo (UPRA).

Proposed use of animals

This protocol is authorized strictly for instructional purposes and not for research on any species. Domestic species (dogs, cats, rabbits) will be handled to show noninvasive clinical technics. Inanimate models will be use by students before practicing clinical skills on live animals. Instructor supervision will ensure minimal distress or pain of animals while students are handling these animals. Any given individual will only be utilized once a week.

All activities related to the care and use of animals will be in accordance with the **Animal Welfare Act**, the NIH "**Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals**" (**Guide**), and the **Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy)**, unless an acceptable justification for a departure is presented in writing. The Program will meet the following requirements:

1. Demonstrations and noninvasive clinical procedures involving animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals.
2. Surgical procedures will be conducted by a licensed veterinarian professor according to standard established veterinary medical and nursing practices.
3. Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals will be performed with appropriate sedatives, analgesics or anesthetics according to the Anesthesia and Surgical Protocol.
4. Animals that for some unforeseen reason experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly euthanatized.

5. The animals' living conditions will be appropriate for the species in accordance with the **Animal Welfare Act** and the “**Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals**” and will contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding, and nonmedical care of the animals will be directed by the attending veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied.
6. Medical care for animals will be available and provided as necessary by a licensed veterinarian.
7. Activities that involve surgery include appropriate provision for pre-operative and post-operative care of the animals in accordance with established veterinary medical and nursing practices.
8. NO animal will be used in more than one major operative procedure from which it is allowed to recover, unless required as routine veterinary procedure or to protect the health or well-being of the animal as determined by the attending veterinarian.
9. Methods of euthanasia used will be in accordance with the definition of the term set forth in the USDA recommendations and the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia.
10. A log of all demonstrations or procedures will be maintained in the office of the Veterinary Technology Program for the duration of the semester and an additional three years after completion of the activity. All records will be accessible for inspection and copying by authorized USDA or funding federal agency representatives at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner.
11. Animals for teaching purposes may be transported from the San Francisco de Asís Veterinary Hospital (SFVH) in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act in appropriate and safe vehicles. SFVH is a private veterinary facility approximately two miles west from our institution with a resident canine blood donor population. Such dogs are brought in for non-invasion clinical demonstrations and procedures.
12. Dogs and cats, which are typically owned by students or university community members, **are housed for short periods of time (less than 10 hours) in the classroom/ laboratory E-110**. Cats and dogs in general manage well with temperatures ranging from 60 to 85 Fahrenheit degrees.

13. Animals used in the program are kept in the Small Animal Clinical Laboratory (classroom E-110). In the event of any of the following situations, this classroom must be checked for the presence of animals and evacuated as described below.
14. Program personnel should be contacted immediately if and when there is a change in water, cooling, or other environmental conditions that would affect animals. In addition, program personnel must be notified in advance if water or electricity will be shut off by maintenance. In the event of emergency, every effort should be made to contact the Veterinary Technology personnel. **UPRA Security and Maintenance personnel will carry out the evacuation procedures in the absence of Veterinary Technology faculty and staff.**
15. All noninvasive procedures shall be supervised by a Professor, Doctor in Veterinary Medicine or a Veterinary Technician.
16. The ratio of students to animal is no more than 5:1, for noninvasive procedures. Each procedure can be done twice per student. The same animal can be used once a week. The source for the animals for the noninvasive procedures are from students, general public, resident animals from clinics, other educational institutions or farms with MOU. At the end of the procedures the animals shall be released to their respective owner.
17. For invasive nonsurgical procedures the ratio of student to animal is no more than 4:1. For procedures such as venipunctures, each vein can be punctured no more the two times. Each animal can be used once a week. For other invasive nonsurgical procedures, such as orogastric, nasogastric tube placing, etc. the procedure can only be done once per student. The same animal can be used once per week. The source for the animals for the invasive non-surgical procedures are students, general public, resident animals from clinics, other educational institution and farms with MOU. At the end of the procedures the animals shall be released to their respective owners.
18. For surgical procedures the ratio of student per animal is no more than 5:1. A DVM shall be in charge. The source for the animals for surgery are from students, general public and farms with MOU. At the end of the procedures the animal is released to the owner with adequate post-surgical care instructions and medications.

Below is the information of the person in charge of the Veterinary Technology Program. **It is essential that Maintenance and Security personnel keep these numbers accessible for use during an emergency (keep a copy of this policy at home in the event of an emergency during the night).**

Emergency Contact information for Veterinary Technology:

Call the following phone numbers:

- **San Francisco de Asís Veterinary Hospital**
(787) 879-5251
- **Dr. Luis Ramos:** Cell: (787) 817-9257
Email: luis.ramos21@upr.edu

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March 2022