

Disposition of Surplus Animals	Policy No.
	003
	Effective Date: 03/14/2016 Updated: 08/11/2026

1. Reference(s):

Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter A – Animal Welfare, Parts 1 & 2

National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition*. Washington, D.C., Academic Press, 2011.

American Dairy Science Association, the American Society of Animal Science, and the Poultry Science Association. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*. Fourth Edition. Champaign, IL. 2020

2. Policy:

- 2.1. IACUC-approved animal care and use protocols (ACUPs) define the primary method of animal disposition including euthanasia, transfer to another protocol, sale, adoption, etc.
- 2.2. In addition to the methods of disposition listed in each ACUP, the IACUC also approves the following methods of disposition for all ACUPs if and only if the appropriate conditions are met:
 - 2.2.1. Transfer or reassignment to another approved ACUP:
 - The ACUP to which they will be reassigned has approval for the species and number of animals to be transferred.
 - Any procedures conducted under the initial ACUP will not interfere with the procedures to be conducted under the receiving ACUP. For example, an animal that underwent a major survival surgery could not be transferred to a second protocol to undergo another major survival surgery.
 - 2.2.2. Sale or transfer of animals to another research or educational institution:
 - Appropriate withdrawal periods have been met for any medications given to food animals.
 - 2.2.3. Sale of agricultural species at a local auction or through a University-managed bidding process:
 - Appropriate withdrawal periods have been met or disclosed for any medications administered.
 - The animals are healthy.
 - 2.2.4. Return of the animals to the original vendor, owner, or producer at their discretion:

- Appropriate withdrawal periods have been disclosed for any medications administered to food animals.
- The animals are healthy.

2.2.5. Release of the animals back into the wild:

- The animals to be released must be wild-caught animals held in captivity for no more than a short period of time.
- The animals are healthy and, aside from endemic diseases, appear to be free of disease.
- The animals are returned to an appropriate habitat, preferably from the location they were captured.
- Appropriate withdrawal periods have been met for any medications administered.
- Decisions on release and permissible duration of captivity before release are often species-specific and must be made on a case-by-case basis.

2.2.6. Adoption

- Appropriate withdrawal periods have been met for any medications administered to food animals.
- The animal is healthy.
- The animal's temperament does not pose a known risk to people or other animals.
- The person is adopting the animal to be their personal pet or the group adopting the animal is a known, *bona fide* rescue organization willing to work with research institutions, not an animal rights organization taking the animal for publicity purposes.
- Adoption of USDA-covered animals will be coordinated with the University Attending Veterinarian, in accordance with Animal Resource's *Policy on Research Animal Adoption*.

2.3. If animals have been exposed to or are known or suspected to harbor infectious agents, pathogens, or parasites, and a method of disposition other than euthanasia is to occur, an appropriate risk assessment and disposition plan must be approved by the IBC and the IACUC. The plan must include any necessary testing, treatment, containment, and/or mitigation measures to minimize the risk of transmission. When vector-borne agents are involved, appropriate measures to prevent vector exposure and transmission shall be agreed upon and implemented at the time of adoption or transfer, as applicable.

2.4. To meet USDA record-keeping requirements, any disposition of all dogs and cats must be processed through Animal Resources.