University of Pennsylvania

Title: Adoption Policy for University Animals

Effective Date: November 23, 2004

Review Date: March 20, 2007

Approval: [Signatures]

I. Purpose: Research animals, who are naïve, were used as control animals, or were subjects in relatively benign experiments, may be adopted out to University Laboratory Animal Resources (ULAR) employees, research staff, other Penn employees, or someone approved by the Principal Investigator or a ULAR veterinarian. This policy will outline the procedures necessary to complete the adoption process.

II. Responsibilities and Scope: The Attending Veterinarian (or designee) is responsible for examining the animal, reviewing the protocol and clinical record and discussing with the prospective owner (or designee) any potential health concerns that previous usage may have created.

III. Definitions:

Naïve: a term describing an animal that has not undergone an experimental "procedure".

Procedure: a protocol related experiment with the potential to cause lasting clinical health issues.

Benign experiments: protocol related experiments that the Attending Veterinarian (or designee) has determined to have minimal, if any, impact on the animal's long term health.

Study Life: the length of time that a particular animal is "on study" and required for the research project.

Veterinarian: the veterinarian responsible for the clinical care of the animal to be adopted. S/he may be the Attending Veterinarian or a designee.
IV. Procedures:

A. Initiation of adoption.
   1. Any of the following parties may request an adoption of a research animal.
      a. Research laboratory. The research laboratory should be the primary group to request that an animal be adopted since they would be most aware of the timeline of the animal's study life.
      b. ULAR staff. Because ULAR staff may have intimate knowledge of an animal's research history and the ending of a study, animal care technicians, veterinary technicians, administrative staff, etc. may also inquire about an animal being adopted.
      c. Penn employee. If a Penn employee is notified by the research laboratory or ULAR staff that a particular animal may be adoptable, then he/she may inquire about an adoption.

   2. Animals can be adopted from a research protocol with the Principal Investigator's written permission to the responsible veterinarian. See attached "Animal Adoption Agreement".

   3. Upon receipt of the Principal Investigator's permission, an official request to adopt an animal should be made to the ULAR veterinarian who is responsible for overseeing that particular animal colony.

   4. Because of the sensitivity of animal research, no direct inquiries concerning adoption from the general public will be considered.

B. Review of clinical history and examination.
   1. The veterinarian will review the research protocol and the animal’s clinical record to be certain as to what type of procedure (if any) was performed on this particular animal.
      a. Procedures that may cause significant or lasting health concerns such as but not limited to cardiac infarction or infection with a biohazard, will preclude this animal from being considered a reasonable adoption candidate.
      b. The veterinarian should consider whether removing an implant is appropriate prior to offering an animal for adoption and if so, shall arrange to have the surgical procedure performed.

   2. A complete physical exam will be performed, with special attention on systems that were the subjects of the research protocol.
      a. Blood work, serology, or other diagnostic testing may be ordered.
      b. The animal's temperament and behavior will be a strong consideration when evaluating the adoptability of an animal.
      c. Animal should be up-to-date on vaccines, free of internal and external parasites and deemed healthy.

   3. The veterinarian will make a determination whether this animal would make a reasonable adoption candidate based on the research history of the animal and on any finding of the physical exam.

C. Spayed or Neutered Animals.
1. If the veterinarian feels that the animal to be adopted has reached an acceptable age to be spayed or neutered, then the animal will undergo this surgery, before it is adopted out.

2. The sterilization procedure will be performed by, or under the direction of, a ULAR veterinarian.

D. Permanent record.
1. The final notation in the animal's permanent clinical record will be that the animal was adopted out as a private pet.
2. The Animal Adoption Agreement (see attachment) will be included in the permanent record.
3. If requested by the new owner, a summary of the animal's clinical record will be provided.

V. Attachments:
Animal Adoption Agreement

VI. Document History:

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<td>1</td>
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<td>New</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Removed Penn employee and ULAR protocol requirements. Added donating to animal shelter requirements. Removed animal shelter section.</td>
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<td>Removed section on spay/neutering animal.</td>
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<td>Added back section on spay/neutering animal.</td>
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<td>Amended spay/neuter section, removed Animal Adoption Questionnaire, amended Animal Adoption Agreement.</td>
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University of Pennsylvania

Animal Adoption Agreement

I, ________________________, am adopting an animal from the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and agree to be fully responsible for the care, treatment, action and well-being of this animal. Furthermore, I acknowledge that I am adopting this animal solely as my personal pet and not for use in any illegal or harmful activity that may have adverse effects upon the animal or the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

It has been explained to me that the below referenced animal has been examined by the Director of the University Laboratory Animal Resources (ULAR) or his or her designee, as evidenced by his or her signature below. Any health conditions or abnormal conditions, known to exist at the time of the adoption, have been explained to me and I affirm that I am capable of handling all the obligations connected with the care and treatment of the animal. I have had an opportunity to ask the examining veterinarian any health and care related questions and each question has been answered to my satisfaction. I am fully aware that this animal has been a subject of a research study at the University of Pennsylvania, the specifics of which have been discussed between me and the examining veterinarian. I acknowledge that I have been given the opportunity to obtain a summary of the clinical records of the animal.

ULAR will make a reasonable attempt to assure that the animal is up-to-date on vaccines and be generally healthy when it is adopted. Because of biosecurity concerns, ULAR and the University cannot accept the animal back into the research facilities once it leaves. ULAR strongly encourages that the adopted animal be seen by its new veterinarian in private practice as soon as possible after the adoption.

Animal ID#: ____________    Signalment: ________________________________________________________________________

I understand that a pet is a long-term commitment and it will be totally dependant on me for its care every day for years to come. I agree to accept full responsibility for this animal, including any and all future costs related to the animal’s care and well-being. I understand that adopting a laboratory animal carries its own set of responsibilities. I have completely and thoroughly read this Animal Adoption Agreement and agree that all the terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted for the purpose of making a full and final adoption of the animal.

Adopting Owner

Date of Agreement

Address

Telephone

Examining Veterinarian

Date of Examine

Principal Investigator

Date of Adoption Approval