The University of Pennsylvania Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has developed the following policies and procedures for adoption of University animals. University-owned animals which have no persistent health concerns may be adopted to Penn employees or other persons approved by the Principal Investigator and Attending Veterinarian.

This policy will cover the following topics:
- Adoption eligibility
- Initiation of adoption
- Veterinary examination
- Transfer of ownership

ADOPTION ELIGIBILITY
The animal must be in good health and of acceptable behavior as determined by a ULAR veterinarian. Experimental procedures or spontaneous conditions that cause persistent health concerns may preclude an animal from being considered a reasonable adoption candidate.
- The adoption must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian and the Principal Investigator.
- Animals must be adopted as pets and subsequently must not be sold, used for food, or used as working animals.
- The adopter is responsible for any and all future veterinary and behavioral care as may be required.

INITIATION OF ADOPTION
Potential adopters may request adoption from the Principal Investigator, who must then provide written permission for the adoption to the ULAR veterinarian who is responsible for overseeing that particular animal colony.
- Potential adopters may be screened by the ULAR veterinarian for their suitability, qualifications, and knowledge of appropriate care required for the animal.
- The ULAR veterinarian may discuss with the potential adopter any potential health concerns that previous usage may have created.
- Due to the sensitivity of animal research, no direct inquiries concerning adoption from the general public will be considered.

VETERINARY EXAMINATION
A ULAR veterinarian will review the research protocol and the animal's clinical record to determine suitability for adoption and potential health concerns.
- Certain experimental procedures may preclude an animal from being a candidate for adoption. These include, but are not limited to: major experimental surgical procedures, infection with biohazards, transgenic or immunosuppressed animals, or other procedures or conditions that may cause significant or lasting health concerns.
- The ULAR veterinarian should consider whether removal of any implants is appropriate prior to offering an animal for adoption and, if so, shall arrange to have the surgical procedure performed.
- If requested by the adopter, a summary of the animal's clinical record will be provided.
A complete **physical examination** will be performed by a ULAR veterinarian. Animals should be deemed clinically healthy, of appropriate disposition, and free of internal and external parasites.

- Diagnostic testing and/or appropriate vaccinations may be ordered and administered prior to adoption, as deemed necessary by the examining veterinarian.
- The ULAR veterinarian will make a final determination whether the animal would make a reasonable adoption candidate based on the research history and physical examination.

Prior to adoption, sexually intact animals of an acceptable age may be required to undergo surgical **sterilization** as deemed necessary by the Attending Veterinarian. The sterilization procedure will be performed by, or in consultation with, a ULAR veterinarian.

**TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP**

At the time of adoption, a note will be made in the animal’s permanent clinical record and Final Disposition form that the animal was adopted out as a private pet.

- The **Animal Adoption Agreement** will be signed and copied; one copy to the adopter and one copy to be included in the permanent animal record.
- Once the animal leaves the facility, it is the possession of its new owner, and the University of Pennsylvania will no longer be responsible for the animal or any related health care or behavioral concerns.