

## **WVU IACUC POLICY:** **Compassionate Exemptions for Disposition of Livestock**

### **Introduction:**

West Virginia University (WVU) agricultural programs produce real marketable products including the acquisition and production of livestock. Financial support for the University's mission can be gained through the sale of livestock in various markets. As with all University property, there are requirements for the public to be provided equitable opportunity to acquire or adopt animals no longer needed by the University. The University, however, also has expectations as to the continued care and welfare of the animals it releases. At times, these long-term care expectations may be prioritized, and therefore an alternate disposition method may be approved in accordance with the University policy.

### **Policy:**

In consideration of animal welfare concerns, petitions for exemption to the University rules related to the disposition of livestock may be submitted through the Office of Animal Welfare.

Submissions should identify:

- Submitters position/relationship with the animal.
- The animal(s).
- Explanation of why the animal(s) are no longer needed by the University.
- Estimated fair market value of animal(s) and how the estimate was determined.
- Possible negative outcomes associated with open sales or auctions.
- A detailed description of what the animals' ultimate needs will be.
- If an individual, group, or organization has been already identified to possibly receive the animal(s), this information should be included in the submission along with how the individual, group, or organization was identified.
- Proposed disposition method, e.g. adoption, private sale, etc.
- Estimate of daily cost of care (per diem).

Submissions will be reviewed by the following:

A: The University Attending Veterinarian will confirm all information regarding the animal and confirm or reject the petition on the grounds of animal welfare.

B: Assuming approval on the grounds of animal welfare, the Office of Procurement, Contracting & Payment Services (PCPS) will review the process of determining the asset's value and identifying a purchaser, and confirm or reject the disposition request based on compliance with the West Virginia Ethics Act. PCPS determination is to enforce proper conduct for disposing WVU property and ensure justification for the disposition method is adequate. PCPS determination is not to set terms or pricing.

After approval of the Attending Veterinarian and PCPS, the submitting party will finalize any necessary contracts or agreements with the University legal counsel. The final transfer of the animal(s) will be reviewed and signed off on by a member of veterinary staff.

**Note:** Exemptions from property disposition policies do not commit the University to long-term care of the animal until a suitable receiving entity can be found. Exemption to open sale or transfer will only remain in place while the University can reasonably accommodate continued housing of the animal with minimal to no impact on the animal care program.