

WVU IACUC Policy:
Recording and Use of Media Associated with Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)-Approved Animal Activities

Applicability

This policy is applicable to biomedical research and teaching only. Those projects identified as agricultural or field research are exempt.

Background

The definition of media as used in this policy are all formats of sound and imagery recordings.

The IACUC acknowledges the value of media in collaborative, educational, and promotional activities associated with the use of animals in research and teaching.

This policy describes the allowable use of recording devices in any area where animals are housed, or procedures are performed for research or teaching at West Virginia University. Additional guidance for personnel on the use of media created as a result of these activities is also discussed.

Users should be aware that media created for research purposes may be subject to Public Records Requests.

Policy

RECORDING

1. The use of any recording device (e.g., film camera, digital camera, camera phones, digital recorder, sound recorder, live streaming equipment) by WVU personnel to record sounds or images of animals or animal use areas is prohibited unless one of the following exceptions apply:
 - a. When performed by the Principal Investigator (PI) or designee if required for University-sanctioned scientific reasons (e.g., publication of research, laboratory documentation).
 - b. When performed by the PI or designee for the purpose of recording internal research or instructional activities as described in the respective IACUC-approved protocol.
 - c. When performed by or at the direction of WVU Clinical Veterinary Staff for the purpose of diagnosing or documenting clinical disease, veterinary care or treatment.
 - d. When performed by WVU Office of Laboratory Animal Resources personnel when required to document condition of facilities, or compliance or animal welfare issues.
 - e. When performed by IACUC members or staff of the Office of Animal Welfare to document conditions during IACUC mandated inspections, continuing review of animal activities, or investigation of compliance or animal welfare issues.
 - f. When performed by government inspectors (e.g. USDA Veterinary Medical Officer).
 - g. When recordings are specifically sanctioned by the IACUC in writing.

2. Recordings by persons not directly involved with animal research (e.g. journalists, students) in any restricted access animal use area **must** be approved by the Attending Veterinarian prior to initiation.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING MEDIA

The IACUC **must** be informed prior to use of any media in the promotion of approved animal activities under its oversight. This includes the distribution of media in social networking platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, etc.), as well as traditional media outlets (fliers, mailings, or news stories).

NOTE: Public outreach and exhibition events pertaining to use of animals in biomedical research and taking place on WVU campuses require the approval of the IACUC.