WestVirginiaUniversity.
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

WVU IACUC Policy and Guidelines:
Animal Adoption

In accordance with recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of West Virginia University (WVU) hereby permits the adoption of certain surplus animals used in research, training and teaching by individuals associated with WVU.

Justification for Adoption

1. The purpose for which the animal was originally procured no longer exists.
2. The animal is healthy but is not transferable to another IACUC-approved protocol at WVU or to another approved institution or sanctuary.

Animals

1. Any animal released for adoption must be free of obvious physical defects and be in good health. Furthermore, only non-aggressive animals adapted to human handling will be considered for adoption.
2. The adoption of primates, any genetically manipulated species, or any animal exposed to potentially hazardous agents, including, but not limited to, radioisotopes, biological hazards/pathogens, zoonoses, hazardous chemicals or drugs, recombinant DNA, or any other agents that might endanger the public, is prohibited.
3. An animal that has undergone invasive procedures may not be eligible for adoption, at the discretion of the WVU Attending Veterinarian

Guidelines for Adoptions

1. Adoptions are limited to adults (≥18 years of age) who have a current affiliation with WVU.
2. The availability of an animal for adoption will be made known by "word of mouth." No written, published or electronic advertisement will be used or authorized.
3. All interested parties must complete an Animal Adoption Application and Waiver form available from the Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (OLAR). This application includes a waiver releasing WVU of any legal obligations, responsibilities, or liabilities after the animal is placed with the new owner.
4. The application for adoption must be reviewed and approved by the WVU Attending Veterinarian or designee, and the Principal Investigator or Course Instructor. Adoptions will be on a "first come, first served" basis.
5. After the application is approved by the WVU AV or designee, a WVU veterinarian will perform a physical examination on the animal, to ensure that it is in good health and condition. The WVU Attending Veterinarian or designee will then sign the Animal Adoption Application and Waiver form.
6. The adopter will then be notified that the animal is ready for pick up.

The new owner will be given the animal, a copy of the Animal Adoption Application and Waiver form, and any pertinent medical history. OLAR will retain the original form in its animal adoption file.

See Animal Adoption Application and Waiver (next page)

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Animal Adoption Application and Waiver

The Institutional Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of West Virginia University (WVU) permits the adoption of certain animals previously used in research, training or teaching. All adoptions are made at the discretion of the WVU Attending Veterinarian or designee.

To be completed by PI or Course Instructor:

PI or Course Instructor Name: _____ Department: _____
Protocol Number: _____
Signature of PI or Course Instructor: _____ Date: _____

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To be completed by WVU Veterinarian:

Name of Veterinarian: _____
Date of Physical Exam: _____
Animal ID: _____ Date of Birth or Arrival: _____
Species: _____ Sex: ____ Weight: _____ Facility and Room #: _____
Physical Exam findings: _____
_____

Signature of Attending Veterinarian or Designee: _____

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To be completed by Adopter:

Name of Adopter: _____ ≥18 yrs old? Y__ N__
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____
Affiliation with WVU: _____

Acceptance of Ownership and Waiver
I certify that I accept full ownership, risk, and responsibility for the animal described above. I am fully aware of the animal's condition as set forth above. I recognize that the animal may have behavioral or medical issues of which West Virginia University is not aware, including but not limited to behavioral or medical issues that can develop with time. These include problems that could pose risk of damage to property or to persons including me. Nonetheless, I hereby assume, knowingly and voluntarily, all risk known and unknown, foreseeable and unforeseeable, associated with the transfer of ownership (adoption) of the animal. With the intention of binding my heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives and assigns, I hereby waive and release and all rights and claims which I may have, now or in the future, against West Virginia University, or any of its respective Board of Governors, officers, directors, employees, agents, and students for any and all injuries, losses or damages of whatever kind, including attorneys' fees, arising from or connected with this transaction, except for those arising out of the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties. Upon taking possession of the animal, I agree to assume all risks, and all financial and medical care costs, and provide a humane setting and husbandry conditions for this animal under my supervision. In addition, I release, hold harmless and indemnify West Virginia University and any of its respective Board of Governors, officers, directors, employees, agents, and students from any claim or cause of action related to the animal or its behavior.

Signature of New Owner: _____ Date: _____