

Washington State University <i>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</i>	
Policy #21	“Tissue Use Policy”
Approval Date: 1/25/2022 (Replacing Version 4/24/2019)	

A. Purpose

The intent of this policy is to describe when the use of animal tissue requires IACUC review and approval or is exempt from IACUC review. It also describes the process for obtaining an exemption letter for activities not requiring IACUC approval.

B. Background

The IACUC is charged with the oversight of live animals used in research and teaching activities. The use of animal tissues that were originally collected for purposes unrelated to the research or teaching activity or that is obtained from animals euthanized for other purposes generally falls outside the scope of the IACUC’s responsibility. For purposes of this policy, tissue includes cells, body fluids, blood, semen, oocytes, embryos, etc.

C. Policy

When vertebrate animals are euthanized for the purpose of obtaining tissue or experience a project specific manipulation(s) (with or without subsequent euthanasia), an approved WSU IACUC protocol is required through the [IACUC online system](#). For example, a project involving bovine estrus synchronization and embryo collection for research and not production purposes or an animal receiving heparin treatment prior to euthanasia and tissue collection would require IACUC approval.

An IACUC approved ASAF is not required for research or teaching activities that utilize tissue that was originally obtained for unrelated purposes or collected from animals euthanized for another purpose (e.g., clinical purposes or euthanized under another approved ASAF). Some examples would include:

- The use of tissue obtained from a slaughter facility. For USDA FSIS slaughterhouse facilities please see References below for form.
- Purchasing commercially available animal tissue. See [IACUC Policy #16](#) for information on obtaining commercially available vs. custom antibodies from vendors.
- Obtaining tissue from procedures that were performed for clinical purposes (e.g., tumors removed for clinical purpose, reproductive tissue collected after routine spay/neuter, or residual blood that was originally collected for clinical diagnostic purposes)
- Collection of animal tissue after an animal has been euthanized for clinical reasons or for another approved research protocol.

D. Review Process

It is highly recommended that Researchers/Instructors submit a summary of the tissue research or teaching activity prior to the start of the project to the Animal Welfare Program office at iacuc@wsu.edu for review and determination.

This review of tissue use will be conducted by the Animal Welfare Program staff and may include consultation with a member of the campus veterinary staff or IACUC Chair. Review shall focus on two key issues that distinguish exempt tissue use from animal use requiring ASAF submission and IACUC approval:

1. Verification that the animals are not manipulated for the purposes of the investigator/instructor who is requesting the tissue. For example, animals cannot be fed a special diet prior to euthanasia for tissue. If animals are manipulated prior to euthanasia or sample collection, a full ASAF must be submitted by the investigator/instructor.
2. Animals cannot be euthanized specifically to generate tissues for research or teaching purposes without an approved ASAF.

The Researchers/Instructors should provide training to staff on proper tissue handling and any zoonotic disease concerns. Zoonoses fact sheets for specific species can be found at <https://iacuc.wsu.edu/zoonoses/>.

If it is determined that the work is exempt from IACUC review, a letter stating why this tissue use is exempt from IACUC review will be provided to the investigator/instructor. This can be provided to funding agencies or publishers who may ask about IACUC oversight and tissue use. Please contact the Animal Welfare Program office at iacuc@wsu.edu.

As an alternative to an exemption letter, a Tissue Use ASAF gathering pertinent information is available as an option to investigators through the [IACUC online system](#). These ASAFs are administratively reviewed and approved by the AWP Staff.

E. References

- USDA FSIS slaughterhouse facilities form:
http://ib.berkeley.edu/courses/ib133/FormsFolder/FSIS%206700-2%20Application%20and%20Permit%20to%20Obtain%20Specimens%20from%20Official%20Establishments_v7.pdf
- PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
<https://olaw.nih.gov/faqs#/guidance/faqs?anchor=questionhttps://olaw.nih.gov/guidance/faqs>