**Animal Care and Use Committee**

**Cal Poly Pomona**

Guideline: Disposition of animals used in teaching and research

(DRAFT July 3, 2006; reviewed and accepted: July 16, 2015)

Revised: 5/14/15, 6/22/15, 7/15/15

Introduction

The Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) at Cal Poly Pomona is charged by federal regulations and campus policy with oversight of the use of animals for teaching and/or research purposes. It holds as well to the principles of the 3Rs: refinement, reduction, and replacement. The review process of an animal use protocol by the ACUC includes consideration of the animals’ fate when the study is completed. To reduce the overall use of animals, and therefore fulfill the 3Rs, the ACUC encourages applying the options of adoption, release, and transfer as appropriate. These guidelines apply only to certain species in approved protocols, and the decision is made by the Veterinarian and ACUC in order to do what is best for the welfare of each animal.

Scope

Investigators who submit protocols for review and approval by the ACUC are required to include a description of the fate of the animals within the protocol.

This policy applies to animals used under protocols approved by the ACUC. These include, but are not limited to, animals which are collected during field studies, collected and then placed into the Vivarium or Bio Trek, animals donated from private owners, and animals given by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Animals are sometimes donated from students who can no longer keep them and want to re-home them. All animals given to the Vivarium or BioTrek facility by the DFW are placed in the same teaching protocol.

The ACUC is cognizant of laws pertaining to non-native species and the potential ecological consequences of their release. To that end, investigators and persons should not consider the duck pond and other aquatic environments on campus as appropriate habitats for turtles and other aquatic species.

Options

1. **Adoption** – Adoption is meant for those individuals who wish to take on the ownership of the animal as a pet in their household. The Adopter must provide appropriate housing and husbandry for the adopted animal and sign an affidavit of adoption. Adoption of animals for the purpose of “rescue” and subsequent transfer of ownership will not be allowed. Animals from Building 92 that are healthy and have no physical deficiencies may be adopted. Animals from BioTrek and the Vivarium that may be adopted are those commonly found in the pet trade. Wild caught or restricted species as listed in the ‘restricted species laws and regulations’ by the DFW are not to be adopted out.
2. **Release** – Only native, wild caught species may be released (or adopted) and only when it is legally valid to do so. All release of animals must be approved by the DFW or appropriate federal agency. All wild animals need to be approved prior to release. When approved, only native wild caught species may be returned to the field and must be returned to the same area in which they were caught. Onsite catch and release protocols are an exception, unless the animal is injured during the capture sequence. In such cases, follow the proper procedures for injured animals. BioTrek and the Vivarium do have wild caught species. Dr. Kris Lappin is the faculty member who applies for a collecting permit and obtains authorization prior to collecting certain species. This collecting permit is also authorized by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
3. **Transfer** – Animals may be transferred to another animal use protocol, if they meet the health standards for such transfer, meaning that the same animals collected on one protocol could be used for another. Transfer of animals in Building 92 requires prior approval from the Animal Care Facility Coordinator to ensure proper documentation of animal use and may be subject to state and federal regulations.Some of the animals in BioTrek and the Vivarium that are used in a research protocol are also used for teaching. They are always a part of teaching protocols and could be used for multiple research projects.

4. **Euthanasia** – All animals exposed to pathogenic and/or experimental agents, or animals that have been altered physically (with the exception of neutering which is done during Animal Health Science Surgery class) must be euthanized at the end of the study unless otherwise declared in an approved ACUC protocol. Any animal that is not transferred to another protocol, adoptable, or eligible for release must be euthanized. As ruled by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in their Appendix Q-I-B-1 (<http://osp.od.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIH_Guidelines.html#_APPENDIX_Q._PHYSICAL>), Cal Poly Pomona does not practice the feeding of transgenic animals to other animals on campus (in the Vivarium or BioTrek such as snakes, lizards, etc.).

5. **Agricultural animals** – Food producing animals (cattle, sheep, and pigs) used for research projects on campus may be returned to their respective Cal Poly Pomona Foundation-owned herd maintained on campus to be used as a breeding animal or be used in teaching activities; and/or the animals can be sold for use as a breeding animal or harvested for meat. Horses used in research projects may be sold to a new owner or returned to the control of the Arabian Horse Center for use in teaching or breeding purposes.