BACKGROUND

The University of Rhode Island (URI) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), under their Assurance with National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), assumes the responsibility for animal care for animals on campus. To ensure the well being and proper care of animals on campus, any individual (faculty, student or organization) who wishes to bring animals onto campus must comply with this policy. In addition to the well-being of the animals, it is the intent of this policy to assess the appropriateness of the activity involving animals with a goal of protecting the safety of students, staff, and the public.

This policy applies to animals brought to campus specifically for an official University program (education, demonstration or training), exempting those approved under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The main purpose of this guidance is to ensure the welfare of the visiting animals. The University must be compliant with all federal, state and local laws that support a healthy and safe workplace for all.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Prior to bringing animals on campus, a letter at least two weeks prior to the event must be sent to the IACUC administrator (email: researchintegrity@ds.uri.edu) with the following information:

1. Contact information (Name/Department/Phone #/Email)
2. Type of event
3. Date of event
4. Location of the event and information on where the animals will be housed at the event.
5. Species and number of animals
6. Owner/Handler/Trainer of the animals
   o The animals are not owned, held or cared for by the University, but remain the responsibility of the owner/handler/trainer bringing them on campus. Animals must be accompanied by and under control of their owner/handler/trainer at all times. Reasonable care must be taken to protect the animal from harm and protect other animals and persons from harm. The owner/handler/trainer is responsible for appropriate handling, feeding/watering, and animal waste disposal.
   o Provide information stating who will care for the animals and how they will be cared for during the event.
7. Method of animal transport to and from the event
8. Length of time animals will be on campus
   o Visiting animals are not allowed to stay on campus for longer than 12 hours
9. Confirmation that the animals are free of known infectious diseases
   o Animals known to have an infectious condition must not be used for any educational, demonstrative, or training program.
   o Verification of rabies vaccination, if applicable.
10. A statement that the responsible signatory agrees to notify the IACUC promptly of any difficulties or problems.

Once the information has been submitted, a subcommittee of the IACUC will review, provide feedback, and approve the use of visiting animals. A notification will be sent via email confirming the approval.

REFERENCES

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition (2011) 