

Use of Hazardous Agents in Experimental Animals Policy

I. Purpose

The policy specifies responsibilities and necessary approvals for the use of hazardous agents at Einstein.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all research experiments and programs at Einstein.

III. Policy

When animal experiments involve the use of hazardous agents in experimental animals, the use of hazardous agents must be approved by the appropriate Safety Committee or by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) of Albert Einstein College of Medicine before the experiments begin. The use of agents potentially infectious to humans (biohazards) must be approved either by the Biosafety Committee or by EH&S. The use of radioactive materials must be approved by the Radiation Safety Officer (from EH&S) or by the Radiation Safety Committee. The use of hazardous chemicals, including the use of ether as an anesthetic, must be approved by the Chemical Safety Committee or by the Chemical Safety Officer (from EH&S).

Safety Officers or the Safety Committees shall determine what, if any, special training must be completed before experiments commence. Safety Officers or the Safety Committee shall determine what, if any, special handling must be used for treated animals, soiled bedding, or animal cages, and they shall inform the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) what special handling is required. Where the procedures are performed will be developed by the Institute for Animal Studies (IAS) and the Safety Committee.

Safety in the laboratories of Principal Investigators (PI) while using animals exposed to hazardous agents shall be the responsibility of the PI. The PI is the primary person responsible for ensuring that each person handling hazardous agents and handling animals is trained prior to their use.

The IACUC is responsible for approving protocols describing the use of hazardous agents and is responsible for examining the training and experience of persons who plan to use animals exposed to hazardous agents. The IACUC will require prior approval by the Safety Committees or EH&S and may require written documentation of plans for safe handling before they approve protocols and allow animals to be ordered or used in such protocols.

The Director of the IAS oversees the safety of faculty and staff members of the IAS within the animal facility and for making sure that hazardous agents in animals are used in such a way that risks of exposure to workers, to the public and to other animals are minimized. Should the Director or IAS staff see evidence of unsafe handling of hazardous agents, he/she will immediately halt the dangerous activity, will notify and consult with the Chairman of the IACUC, EH&S, the PI, and the Institutional Official about what additional actions should be taken. In an emergency situation where the safety of persons may be endangered, the IAS Director may confiscate animals and materials while safety is ensured, and officials are notified.

IV. Definitions

None.



V. Effective Date

Effective as of: 19 February 2018.

VI. Policy Management and Responsibilities

Einstein's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Institutional Official for the IACUC is the Responsible Executive for this policy. The IACUC Chairperson is the Responsible Officer for the management of this policy.

VII. Approved (or Revised)

	
_____ Institutional Official	_____ Date

Revision dates: 8/3/99, 4/20/2005, 6/15/2011, 8/20/13, 3/21/2017, 2/19/18