

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

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AG CENTER PS-21
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ANIMAL USE POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this LSU Agricultural Center (AgCenter) policy statement is to define and establish guidelines on the ethical and humane care and use of animals involved in research, teaching, or outreach demonstrations.

General Policy

The LSU AgCenter serves the State of Louisiana by developing educational and research programs that enhance the health and well-being of humans and animals. Animal subjects are used in AgCenter programs to advance the sciences of food production, human and animal health, nutrition, and environmental sustainability. The use of animals is necessary but a privilege with accompanying responsibilities. These responsibilities include clean and adequate animal holding facilities; availability of proper food and water; trained animal maintenance personnel; appropriate veterinary care; and the proper use of anesthetics, analgesics and other comfort remedies when animals are subject to research activities or used in teaching or outreach demonstrations.

The LSU AgCenter complies fully with the Animal Welfare Act of 1966, as amended in 1990 to include farm animals; the Health Research Extension Act of 1985, and the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. These laws require the establishment of review committees, unannounced facility inspections, and accurate

record keeping.

The LSU AgCenter follows the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) position statement regarding animal welfare and complies with the guidelines as stated in *the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (2011) and *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (2010). This institution has an Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Animal Assurance statement, verifying compliance with the requirements for the proper care and treatment of all vertebrate animals, irrespective of species, location, investigator, use, or funding source.

The LSU AgCenter has an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) composed of agricultural research scientists, veterinarians and local community residents. This committee ensures that animal protocols are humane and appropriate for the proposed research, teaching, or outreach demonstration. All animal care is under the centralized jurisdiction of the Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, the attending veterinarian, and the AgCenter IACUC.