



Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns (Whistle-Blower Policy)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to describe the methods for reporting animal welfare concerns. The use of animals in biomedical research is necessary and appropriate. Montana State University is committed to the humane treatment of animals and strives to ensure that institutional facilities and procedures adhere in all respects to NIH guidelines for care and use of laboratory animals.

II. Scope

The IACUC wants to be informed of any concerns that individuals of the campus community may have with respect to the care and use of laboratory animals and feels it is important that these concerns be addressed on an individual basis.

III. Process for Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns

Principal Investigator (PI): An MSU employee responsible for a proposal (i.e., “animal use protocol”) to conduct research and for the design and implementation of research involving animals.

Any individual who witnesses what he/she perceives to be inappropriate treatment of research animals has several options to report the inappropriate treatment.

- a. Contact any member of the IACUC and report the concern.
- b. File a concern by filling out an “Animal Concern Form” (posted at all locations where animals are housed), which will be submitted to the IACUC.
- c. MSU has instituted an anonymous Compliance Hotline via a third party company, [Ethics Point](#) that allows the reporter to remain anonymous. A report can be submitted electronically or by phone 855-753-0486.

Every effort will be made to keep the identity of the person raising the concern confidential. Retaliation against a person who raises a good-faith concern will not be tolerated. The IACUC will follow-up on all complaints and gather additional information as necessary and appropriate. If indicated, corrective action will be initiated and the results of the investigation will be communicated to the individual who raised the complaint.

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