

**Cleveland State University  
Animal Research Facility  
Policy and Procedure Manual**

**Adoption of Animals Used in Research**

**POLICY:** Healthy animals that are no longer needed for research purposes may be adopted by Cleveland State University (CSU) staff, faculty, and students upon approval from the consulting veterinarian and Principal Investigator or their designees. The adoption process is finalized by executing the “*Animal Adoption Agreement*” by the Animal Research Facility Manager acting on behalf of the CSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the person adopting the animal.

**BACKGROUND:**

The IACUC recognizes a possibility of occasional availability of animals which are no longer needed for specific research purposes and, therefore may be adopted out to a suitable home as a permanent, life-long pet. It is understood and accepted that implementation of an adoption program enhances the quality of life for research animals that are no longer needed by the University. In compliance with regulations imposed by the various governmental agencies, CSU provides a high quality of care to its animals on a daily basis, and ensures through IACUC oversight that responsible and compassionate researchers utilize animals only when necessary. Therefore, it follows that the University should make its best effort to ensure an appropriate remainder of lives for those animals whose sacrifice is not required by science.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to allow research animals that are no longer assigned to scientific projects to be adopted by qualified individuals as permanent companion pets for the remainder of the animals’ lives.

**PROCEDURE:**

Adoption privileges are granted only for Cleveland State University staff, faculty, and students. The University reserves the right to limit the quantity of the animals adopted or deny any adoption at the discretion of the IACUC.

Genetically modified animals will not be made available for adoption.

Approval of adoption of the research animals is granted on case-by-case basis.

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The IACUC recognizes that adoption of research animals raises the concern for human health and safety. To minimize the risks, animals must be examined by the consulting veterinarian and found to be in good clinical health and of suitable temperament prior to the release for adoption. An animal must not have experienced any manipulation that has altered its anatomical, physiological, metabolic, or locomotor function. The animal must be clinically free of visible infectious disease or physical abnormalities, which would threaten animal or public health.

An individual wishing to adopt research animals must precede as follows:

- a) Submit the completed Adoption Application to the Animal Research Facility (ARF) Manager. The Manager will arrange the review of the Application by the Consulting Veterinarian and the Principal Investigator or their designees. Each of them may wish to further converse with the Applicant prior to granting their approval of adoption.
- b) Upon approval of the Adoption Application by the Consulting Veterinarian and the Principal Investigator, pay a \$25.00 adoption fee per each adoption event to cover the administrative and training costs;
- c) Successfully complete training acceptable to the CSU Attending Veterinarian (or a designee) demonstrating capability to provide high quality animal husbandry and care (i.e. the online species-pertinent training modules administered by CITI or other training programs).
- d) Successfully complete a basic animal handling training provided by the ARF Manager or a designee.

In the presence of the ARF Manager (or a designee), the individual adopting an animal signs a waiver which states that the University is not liable for any injury or damage to persons or property by the adopted animal. The waiver further states that no warranties, guarantees, or promises of any kind have been made or can be made with regard to the adopted animal's physical condition or temperament. The new owner assumes all further responsibilities associated with responsible companion animal ownership.

At the time of transfer of ownership, the adopter shall assume all financial responsibility for housing, care, and medication of that animal. Animals are permitted to be adopted as permanent pets only once for the duration of the animals' life. Under no circumstances are re-adoption or assignment of the ownership of the animals to another individual or party, or release of the animal into the wild permitted. **If the original adopter is no longer able to care for the animal**, the person is required to 1) have the animal euthanized by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the current AVMA Panel on Euthanasia and 2) provide an executed statement to the CSU Animal Research Facility (ARF) Manager attesting to such. To comply with stringent policies assuring health of the resident animals, under no circumstances, will the no-longer wanted animal(s) be returned to the CSU ARF.

For each animal being adopted an "*Animal Adoption Agreement*" will be executed by the ARF Manager and the person adopting the animal. This document will be archived by the Animal Facility for a period of at least 3 years from the date of signature by the new owner.

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CSU IACUC, at its own discretion, reserves the right to follow up on the status of the animals to ensure all is as outlined in the Agreement, and request any pertinent animal health reports from the owner or a corresponding veterinarian.

This Policy is not all inclusive and may be modified at any time as deemed necessary by the CSU IACUC.

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**Cleveland State University**  
**Sponsored Programs and Research Support**

**Animal Adoption Application**

Name of the Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ CSU ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal species and strain: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Animal Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity of animals desired: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the reason you would like to adopt the animal(s)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you personally owned pets in the last 5 years? How many? What kinds?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently have pets at your residence? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the living conditions you anticipate to provide for the animal(s) you intent to adopt?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you personally own the place of your current residence? How many people reside there? Any children younger than 6 years of age?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you or your family members (roommates) have any known allergies to animals?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is your established veterinarian? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Investigator's signature of approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's signature of approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cleveland State University**  
**Sponsored Programs and Research Support**

**Animal Adoption Agreement**

Animal information: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, undersigned, **accept the adoption of the animal(s) described above and I agree to each of the following:**

- This animal(s) will be a permanent pet for me for the duration of the animal’s life;
- I accept this animal in its present condition. I understand that there are no expressed or implied guarantees concerning the health or the temperament of the animal.
- I assume all responsibility of owning, possessing or caring for this animal and understand that it can neither be returned to CSU nor housed temporarily or permanently at CSU for any reason. I will provide sufficient for the species living space, clean bedding and daily husbandry, nutritional, enrichment and environmental needs consistent with such conditions provided by CSU and according to all federal, state and local regulations applicable to the animal care.
- I also understand that this animal may not be sold, given away, under no circumstances released into the wild, or otherwise released from my care. By my signature below, I declare that should unforeseen circumstances occur precluding me from the ability to provide my personal care to the animal, I will assure its humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian according to the most recent American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia. I will also obtain and furnish to CSU within 14 business days an executed by such a professional statement attesting to such an action.
- I further agree that under no circumstances will the animal be bred.
- **Assumption of Risk, Release and Waiver of Liability: I agree to hold harmless and forever release the Cleveland State University, the Board of Trustees, and the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, together with their agents, officers, and employees, from any and all claims, suits, actions, and expenses of any nature, including but not limited to care and veterinary expenses, resulting from or arising out of adoption of this animal. I understand that this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability binds my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, as well as me.**
- **Acknowledgement: I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, I have read this Animal Adoption Agreement and fully understand its terms, and I sign this Agreement voluntarily with full knowledge of its legal significance.**

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Person Adopting the Animal

CSU ID #

Date

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ARF Manager

Date