

NUMBER: RSCH 5.05 (Formerly ACAF 5.05)
SECTION: Office of Research
SUBJECT: Inspection of USC Animal Facilities by Non-USC Personnel
DATE: February 1, 1995
REVISED: March 10, 2010
Policy for: Columbia and Regional Campuses
Procedure for: Columbia and Regional Campuses
Authorized by: Stephen Kresovich
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I. Policy

- A. The University accepts an ethical and scientific responsibility to provide humanely for the welfare of all animals used in education and research at USC. The University recognizes that the public has a concern for the welfare and well-being of the animals, and that members of the university, representatives of the public such as media organizations, and individual citizens may desire to visit the animal holding facilities to observe animal care activities.
- B. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has oversight over the care and use of animals at the University. The IACUC membership includes at least one community member who is not affiliated with the university to represent the concerns and interests of the local community. It also will include among its members; a USC student, and a non-scientist. The IACUC reviews the animal care program and inspects the facilities semi-annually.
- C. Maintenance of an unlimited open door policy in the animal facilities is not compatible with good animal husbandry or research. Many animals are sensitive to changes in their daily routine; therefore, the presence of strangers may cause them distress and physiological stress. Research projects frequently require close control of variables. Changes in routine or unusual occurrences can cause changes in blood pressure, hormone levels and other parameters which may confuse research data. Most USC animals are bred and cared for under strict hygienic conditions to maintain their disease-free status. Visitors may inadvertently introduce bacteria or viruses into the animal facility which could compromise the disease-free state. Some animals may carry zoonotic organisms which may be dangerous to humans; therefore, access to these animals are strictly limited.
- D. Areas used for biohazard containment area are not open to the public for safety reasons.

E. The University allows access to other animal facilities to responsible groups and individuals on a limited basis.

II. Procedure

A. Requests to visit the facilities should be submitted in writing to the USC Veterinarian or USC Media Relations which will coordinate the request and visit.

B. To reduce potential stress to animals and disruption of activities, visits to the animal facilities will normally be scheduled in conjunction with semi-annual inspections by the IACUC, immediately preceding or following the IACUC. Group size may be limited and it may not be possible to honor all requests during one tour.

III. Reason for Revision

Reviewed for accuracy, organization and content in March 2010; no substantive revisions needed. Also renumbered to move from Academic Affairs policy division (ACAF) to Research policy division (RSCH).