

IACUC Policy on Nonhuman Primates

Nonhuman primates have been and will continue to be very valuable animal models in biomedical research. For some types of research viable alternatives to the use of nonhuman primates are not available. It is clear, however, that the use of nonhuman primates presents many serious problems for animal health and well-being, animal management, and health risks to researchers and animal care staff. The use of nonhuman primates, especially Old World primates, requires specialized housing and facilities; intense, continual training of staff; and well-organized support staff providing medical surveillance and treatment, hazard assessment, and security. The animal facilities at USC do not routinely include housing and programs for the use of nonhuman primates.

The IACUC strongly encourages investigators who require nonhuman primates for their research to conduct the animal work in specialized primate facilities, such as those in the National Institutes of Health Regional Primate Research Centers or university primate research centers.

The IACUC and the University Veterinarian will assist the investigator with locating and evaluating the sites, reviewing the animal use programs, and developing protocols and contracts.

If the research cannot be conducted at an off-campus site, the investigator is responsible for coordinating his needs with the IACUC and the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources. The investigator is responsible for assuring that funding for specialized caging, necessary training of personnel, occupational health surveillance of personnel, and other costs associated with establishing a primate colony are available. The IACUC will assist the investigator and may recommend suitable consultants for developing programs and procedures.

No nonhuman primates will be brought into USC animal facilities until a complete program for primate care and use is in place and has been coordinated with all the involved University elements including Health and Safety Programs, University Specialty Clinics, USC Police, and Media Relations. This would include provisions for *Macacine herpesvirus 1* (MHV1, Herpesvirus B). All macaques should be presumed to be harboring MHV1 and handled accordingly.

The basic elements of the program would include:

1. Standard operating procedures and training for handling macaques and their tissues and dealing with potential exposures;
2. Risk assessment and education of all personnel having potential contact with macaques;
3. The presence of supplies for immediate and appropriate patient first aid and animal specimen collection;
4. Maintenance of a bite, scratch, and incident log;
5. The required use of appropriate protective equipment, including that necessary for hand and arm as well as for eyes and mucous membrane protection; and
6. Access to occupational health and safety staff and medical care staff knowledgeable of both exposures and acute disease.