

Policy on Research Animal Adoption

# Policy Statement

In alignment with the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (“ACLAM”) position statement supporting the adoption of research and teaching animals, the University of Puget Sound, through its Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (“IACUC”), encourages its researchers to place for adoption animals that have participated in research or teaching, provided that the animal is deemed eligible for adoption, and provided that the individual adopting the animal has demonstrated that they are capable of providing a suitable home for the animal.

# Coverage

This policy applies to all University Community Members as well as any qualified Outside Individuals interested in adopting a research or teaching animal approved for adoption from the University of Puget Sound.

# Definitions

**Principal Investigator (“PI”):** the scientist or scholar employed by the university responsible for the conduct of research or educational exercise, described in the approved research project. The PI is responsible for all programmatic and administrative aspects of a project or program.

**Outside Individual:** For purposes of this policy, these are individuals who are not currently a University Community Member as defined within.

**Protocol:** For the purposes of this policy, this is the IACUC-approved document describing the objectives, design, and methodology for the research project involving the subject animal.

**Research Animal(s):** An animal kept or brought on Campus for the purpose of research, teaching, or testing. These animals are part of the University curriculum and kept or brought on Campus under the authority of the Provost.

**University Building(s):** Any and all structures owned and controlled by the University; provided, however, that University property used for the sole purpose of providing temporary housing for faculty and staff is exempt from this policy and animals in such housing are subject only to any applicable provisions in the University lease agreements (requiring prior approval of pets) for such property so long as the animal is inside the house or on the housing property.

**University Campus (or “Campus”):** Any and all University Buildings (permanent and temporary structures) and University Grounds (outdoor spaces including, but not limited to, athletic spaces, sidewalks, and fields) owned and controlled by the University.

**University Community Member(s):** For purposes of this policy, these are University students, faculty, and staff members.

# Initial Criteria for Animal Adoption

## Animal’s Eligibility for Adoption

An animal that has participated in research or teaching activities will be considered eligible for adoption at the conclusion of the activity if the Principal Investigator (“PI”), in collaboration with the consulting IACUC veterinarian, determines that the animal meets the following criteria:

* + The animal is in good health and of a suitable temperament to become a companion animal;
  + The animal was not exposed to infectious agents during the research or teaching activities;
  + The animal is not a transgenic or immune-suppressed animal;
  + The animal was not administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements, which will be disclosed to the adopter; and
  + The animal is not prohibited from transfer to private ownership by university, state, or federal law, regulation, or policy.

## Adopter’s Required Conditions for Adoption

University Community Members or Outside Individuals wishing to adopt must complete a University of Puget Sound Research Animal Adoption Agreement (Appendix A) and agree to the following conditions of adoption:

* + The adopter must provide evidence to the PI’s satisfaction that they are able to meet basic, species-specific health and safety needs, including appropriate food, housing, transport, and veterinary care;
  + The animal will be adopted as a personal companion animal only and may not be sold, released to the wild, or used for food (human or animal consumption);
  + The adopter accepts legal and financial responsibility for the animal, and under no circumstances may return the animal to the University; and
  + If a situation arises where the animal needs to be rehomed, it is the responsibility of the adopter to make sure that the new home meets the standards of the original adoption.

# Adoption Process

Animals that may become eligible for adoption upon conclusion of their relevant research protocols will be identified during the protocol approval process. Individuals wishing to adopt an animal must submit a University of Puget Sound Research Animal Adoption Agreement (Appendix A) and meet with the PI or their designee to verify adopter eligibility and animal suitability.

The PI listed on the protocol under which the animal was covered or their designee will facilitate the adoption process by:

* + Providing the adopter with necessary information including a synopsis of the animal’s medical history and relevant health information, as well as a document outlining species-specific requirements for the animal’s care. Those requirements will have been approved by the University’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and will specify needs including type of food, size of and type of enclosure, and need for socialization with conspecifics (i.e., members of the same species).
  + Verifying that the adopter is capable of providing the species-specific care to the animal for the reminder of its natural life.
  + Scheduling an in-person physical examination by the IACUC’s veterinarian prior to adoption. Only those animals deemed suitable for adoption by the IACUC veterinarian will be available for adoption.

On the day that the Research Animal Adoption Agreement is signed, the animal shall be transferred to the new owner.

# Effective Date

This policy is effective as of April 1, 2022.

# Related Statutes, Regulations, and Policies

* [RCW 18.92.270](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=18.92.270)
* [7 USC § 2131 et seq.](https://www.nal.usda.gov/legacy/awic/animal-welfare-act)
* [University of Puget Sound - Animals on Campus Policy](https://www.pugetsound.edu/animals-campus-policy)
* [University of Puget Sound - Animals in Campus Residences Information](https://www.pugetsound.edu/residence-life/policies-rates-refunds/animals-campus-residences)
* [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK54050/)

**Policy Owner:** Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

**Date Adopted:** [Identify date policy was adopted]

**Appendix A**

**University of Puget Sound Research Animal Adoption Agreement**

By signing this form, I agree to adopt the animal(s) described below from the University of Puget Sound, and in so doing will become fully responsible for the care, treatment, actions, and well-being of the animal(s).

| Animal description (Identification, sex, age) |  |
| --- | --- |
| Principal Investigator Name |  |
| IACUC Protocol # |  |
| Date of Veterinary Health Clearance |  |
| Animal Notes |  |

I understand that the animal(s) described above has been determined to appear to be in good health and of suitable temperament to be a companion animal, and acknowledge that this does not guarantee that the animal has no health issues.

I understand the terms under which I take ownership of this animal and agree to comply with all the conditions of adoption as listed below:

* In accepting this animal, I agree that I am willing and able to provide adequate and appropriate species-specific care for this animal’s safety and well-being, including any necessary medical care.
* I agree not to use this animal as a food source (for humans or other animals) or for any commercial purpose, including but not limited to breeding and exhibiting. I will not relinquish this animal to another owner unless that owner is able to provide care and safety at the same level of quality that I, as the original adopter, was able to. Further, I will not release the animal into the wild.
* I agree to care for it in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of my place of residence, including but not limited to having the animal spayed or neutered if applicable, vaccinated as appropriate and registering the animal with local animal control officials as required.
* I understand that students in on-campus housing at Puget Sound are prohibited from housing pets other than a fish (in a 20-gallon or smaller tank) in their residence. Emotional support animals require approval by Student Accessibility and Accommodation. Reference: Animals in Campus Residences policy https://www.pugetsound.edu/residence-life/policies-rates-refunds/animals-campus-residences

I have had an opportunity to ask any health or care-related questions, and each question has been answered to my satisfaction.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge, and I hereby release and indemnify the University of Puget Sound, its trustees, officers, employees, and agents from any liability, claims, and expenses resulting from this adoption. I understand that the University of Puget Sound is not liable for the animal’s continuing care or veterinary treatment, or for any damages arising from my ownership of the animal once it has been removed from the University of Puget Sound facility.

**Adopter**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**University of Puget Sound Principle Investigator (or designee)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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