



# POLICY

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Mistreatment of Animals</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b>	2014-034
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
<b>Policy Contact:</b> <b>Designation:</b> <b>E-Mail:</b>	Donald E. Walters, Ph.D. Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee <a href="mailto:dewalters@westernu.edu">dewalters@westernu.edu</a>
<b>Approval Date:</b>	9/10/14
<b>Reviewed:</b>	9/13/17; 5/13/2020 (No changes)
<b>Revised:</b>	9/13/17 (Added intentional or unintentional actions to Policy Info)

**Purpose of Policy:** To ensure that animals are treated as humanely as possible without interfering with legitimate scientific or teaching goals.

**Policy Information:** Certain behaviors or actions, be they intentional or unintentional, towards animals are unacceptable and require that immediate corrective action be taken. Commission of any of the behaviors or acts listed below may result in disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, loss of animal privileges, denial of access to vivaria, suspension of an approved animal subjects protocol and suspension or termination of the person involved.

Unless as part of an IACUC-approved protocol, unacceptable behaviors or actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mistreatment of an animal. This includes any action, whether physical or psychological, that results in wrongful or abusive treatment causing injury or distress to an animal. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Deliberately injuring or neglecting an animal
  - Teasing, taunting or deliberately scaring an animal
  - Unnecessarily shaking or tapping a cage, carton or box of animals
  - Unnecessary use of force
- Knowingly introducing disease into an animal colony
- Purposeful disregard for facility and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) standard operating procedures (SOPs) and/or policies related to the health and welfare of an animal
- Knowingly falsifying data pertaining to animal care, e.g. temperature/humidity readings, health check records, feeding schedules or cage cleaning logs

Violations of this policy may be reported without risk of reprisal as described in the IACUC's Whistleblower Policy No. 2014-007.

All reports of animal mistreatment will be investigated by the IACUC and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Biotechnology. Actions taken will be in accordance with appropriate federal and state laws and regulations and university legal and policy standards. Human Resources and Legal Services may be consulted to assure that the investigation and any actions taken are properly conducted.

**Related Policies:** Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Policy No. 2014-007, Whistleblower Policy