



POLICY

TITLE:	Holding Protocol
Policy Number:	2014-038
Responsible Department:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy Contact: Designation: E-Mail:	Donald E. Walters, Ph.D Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee dewalters@westernu.edu
Approval Date:	10/8/14
Reviewed:	9/13/17; 5/13/2020 (No changes)
Revised:	9/13/17 (Corrected source of the <i>Guide</i>)

Purpose of Policy: To ensure that all animals housed by or under the jurisdiction of Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) are covered by an approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol.

Policy Information: WesternU's IACUC has adopted the current edition of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research/National Research Council's (ILAR/NRC) [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), the [AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals](#) and the [Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching](#), as the minimal standards of care for all animals used in teaching or research that are under the jurisdiction of WesternU.

To ensure that these minimal standards are met, the IACUC's Holding Protocol will cover animals that fall under one or more situations that include, but are not limited to,

- An approved protocol expires before being reapproved by the IACUC.
- Animals are left over from a terminated protocol.
- Animals are left behind by a principal investigator (PI) no longer employed by the University.
- Animals were covered by a protocol that has been suspended.
- Animals that have been confiscated by the IACUC due to disciplinary actions against the PI or his/her staff.
- Animal welfare issues

If an Annual Renewal and Progress Report for an IACUC-approved protocol is not received by the stated deadline, the animal facilities staff will automatically transfer the animals to the IACUC's Holding Protocol. Once the report is received and reviewed, the animals will revert to the original protocol. Similarly, in the case of a 3-year full renewal, if an approved protocol expires before it can be reapproved by the IACUC, the animals will automatically revert to the Holding Protocol. Once a 3-year full renewal has been reapproved, the animals will be assigned to the newly approved protocol.

Animals confiscated by the IACUC that are not to be returned to the PI or animals that remain on the Holding Protocol for more than sixty (60) days will be disposed of at the discretion of the IACUC.

Animals covered under the Holding Protocol may not be used for research or teaching purposes. Unless special arrangements have been made and approved by the IACUC, the Animal Care Facility staff will be responsible for all animal husbandry, including holidays and weekends.

The Attending Veterinarian has full discretion and authority for all veterinary treatment and euthanasia of animals on the Holding Protocol. Euthanasia of any animals covered under the Holding Protocol will be performed by the Animal Care Facilities staff. However, no tissues may be collected from these animals for teaching or research purposes.

Breeding for the sole purpose of maintaining the viability of a specific line of animals can occur on the IACUC Holding Protocol.