

Animal Program Policy

Title: **Veterinary Verification of Significant Changes: Mouse Strains**
Date Created: 3/25/2020
Date Reviewed: 03/19/2025

Purpose: OLAW has approved changes in procedures for handling significant changes to protocols in order to streamline research with animals. In the past, changes to techniques using animals were considered significant changes requiring the submission of an amendment for review by the full committee or by DMR.

Guidance now allows “administrative” approval of changes to some techniques done with animals: these changes will not require submission of an amendment. However, they must be verified by the Consulting Veterinarian and subsequently documented. In order to employ this method of verification, the IACUC must approve a written policy allowing veterinary verification of specific classes of significant changes.

This policy covers veterinary verification and consultation (“VVC”) for changes to a specific class of procedures: mouse strains.

With this policy, the IACUC authorizes the Consulting Veterinarian to verify that addition of certain mouse strains to an IACUC-approved protocol is allowed if all the following conditions are met:

- 1) Mice are already the species used in the approved protocol;
- 2) Genotyping, if needed, is already included in the approved protocol;
- 3) The proposed strain is commercially available from a standard vendor;
- 4) The addition would not increase mouse numbers beyond 100; an amendment would be necessary to add more than 100 mice, consistent with our existing policies; and,
- 5) There is no adverse phenotype associated with the proposed strain

Investigators must contact the Consulting Veterinarian (through the Director of Animal Care is OK, or, contact IACUC@forsyth.org) to request the change. The Director of Animal Care and the Consulting Veterinarian must then verify that the change is consistent with the goals of the protocol and that the change requested is appropriate for the specific circumstances. The Consulting Veterinarian can take one of three actions:

- 1) Verify that the requested change is consistent with this policy
- 2) Request modifications to the proposed changes
- 3) Defer to full committee review

If verified by the Consulting Veterinarian, the change and its verification must be documented using a specific form, which will then be attached to the protocol.