

## Animal Program Policy

Title: **Increase in Mouse Numbers**  
Date Created: 9/20/2016  
Date Reviewed: 11/19/2025

Purpose: It is the responsibility of the IACUC to ensure that the number of animals used in experimental procedures is appropriate for the experimental endpoints, and that the number of animals to be used is appropriately justified. While these aspects are considered at the time of protocol review, in many instances, additional animals are needed beyond those initially requested. These additional animals may be needed for a variety of reasons, such as 1) a need to repeat all or part of an experiment; 2) a need to add additional experimental groups, such as an additional dose or time point, depending on the experimental results or 3) loss of data from some animals due to technical difficulties during analysis. In all these cases, under the current IACUC policy, submission of an amendment for approval by the IACUC would be required.

OLAW provides guidance on the ability of IACUCs to approve an increase in animal numbers administratively:

*“A significant change that may be handled administratively according to an existing IACUC-reviewed and -approved policy without additional consultation or notification is an increase in previously approved animal numbers” [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/significant\\_changes.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/significant_changes.htm)*

In order to expedite research and lessen administrative burden on investigators, the IACUC seeks to streamline the process for requesting additional animals. Therefore, this policy sets out the conditions for administrative approval of an increase in animal numbers at ADA Forsyth.

- For **mice only**, as many as 100 additional animals may be added to an animal protocol without IACUC review.
- All other species require review by the standard IACUC procedures.
- The increase in mouse numbers must be documented using the standard amendment form, along with a justification for the addition, submitted to the IACUC email address. “The original rationale for the numbers of animals should continue to support the increase in number being requested. If not, a revised rationale is required.”
- The IACUC Chair will review the request and may issue an approval without further IACUC review. At her/his discretion, the request may also be referred to the full committee.
- An approval letter will be sent as for all other amendments.
- All such amendments will be presented for ratification at the subsequent IACUC meeting.