



Policy for the Adoption of Animals Used in Research and Teaching

Research animals that were used as control animals or were subjects in relatively benign experiments may be adopted as companion animals to suitable adopters. Genetically modified animals or animals exposed to zoonotic pathogens are not adoptable.

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE ADOPTION POLICY

This policy formalizes the process whereby an animal used in the research and teaching program can be adopted as a companion animal, as an alternative to euthanasia.

B. SUITABILITY OF SPECIFIC ANIMALS FOR ADOPTION

Some animals are not suitable for adoption. Prior to being released into the custody of the adopter, the Brandon University Consulting Veterinarian and/or a BUACC subcommittee must make a determination that the animal is suitable for adoption. Animals used for noninvasive experimental procedures that, to BUACC's reasonable knowledge, have not resulted in any psychological, physiological or physical damages may be adopted if they are determined to be:

1. in good health;
2. have suitable temperament as a companion animal;
3. have an expectation for a normal quality of life and with no known current or future risks to itself or the new owner; and,
4. the new owner accepts full responsibility for the animals' care, well-being and welfare, accepts the animal as a test subject, and releases Brandon University from liability.

C. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADOPTION PROGRAM

The BUACC assumes responsibility for implementing the adoption policy, and for evaluating protocols where adoption, as an option for disposal of animals, is proposed. The Animal Facility Manager will be responsible for all aspects of the adoption program. Records will be kept in the Office of Research Services.

D. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ADOPTION OF AN ANIMAL

There is no university budget for this program and no adoption fee will be collected. The prospective owner is responsible for all charges related to animal care and vaccinations, as well as any other costs associated with ownership of the animal.

E. ADOPTION PROCEDURES:

1. BUACC Shall Approve Adoption as Disposition

If adoption is a possible disposition of animals at the end of a research study, the protocol application for BUACC review should so indicate. Principal Investigators may indicate on the original protocol that they believe the nature of the study will not interfere with the potential for adoption for the animals once the study is complete. The proposed disposition of animals will be subject to BUACC approval. The PI's indication on the protocol does not guarantee that all animals in the study will be approved adoption candidates or that any particular animal will be approved for adoption by BUACC. This does not preclude the adoption of animals if that becomes a viable option in protocols not originally including adoption as a suitable disposition of animals. Such protocols shall be amended to add adoption.

2. Assessment of the Animal's Health and Suitability for Adoption

A Principal Investigator wanting to adopt out one of the assigned animals shall first contact the Animal Facility Manager and provide a written explanation of the research and manipulations performed on the animal. This written explanation should include any medically pertinent information, and include a description of the value of the research to human and/or veterinary medicine. This document will be used to inform the future owner of the procedures that were performed on the animal and their benefit, and will serve as a medical record for the veterinarian who may treat the animal in the future.

The animal will be examined by the Consulting Veterinarian who will determine the animal's suitability for adoption based on the complete history of the animals' research or teaching use, the animal's temperament, health and type of research manipulations performed, and intended future circumstances.

If the animal is not appropriate for adoption, either for temperament or medical reasons, or if a suitable new owner is not found within a reasonable time, the animal will be euthanized.

3. Terms and Conditions of Adoption

Persons seeking to adopt a former research or teaching animal, cleared by the University's Consulting Veterinarian, must agree to care for the animal(s) in a humane and responsible manner and to provide it with clean, adequate and appropriate shelter, food, water, and veterinary care, and agree to, if unable to care for the animal, surrender it to an approved SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). Persons must complete an Adoption Release and Waiver Form. Once executed, the Adoption Release and Waiver Form will be filed in the Office of Research Services.

The person adopting any animal from Brandon University must agree, by signing the Adoption Release and Waiver Form, to not hold the University liable for any actions or circumstances arising from the adoption or the costs, damages, potential injuries including but not limited to death, associated with the ownership of the animal. Adopted animals may not be returned to Brandon University, nor may they be sold for personal profit or gain to other individuals or commercial businesses.

If, at any time, the Adopter is unable to care for the adopted animal, the Adopter will surrender the animal to an approved SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals) Facility.