

UGA - CVM RESEARCH ANIMAL ADOPTION POLICY

The UGA-CVM recognizes the invaluable contributions of research animals in the advancement of biomedical knowledge and the training of veterinarians. The CVM endorses and promotes the responsible, humane, and appropriate use of research animals while complying with the concept of "refinement, reduction, and replacement" in our use of research animals. The CVM recognizes further that a human-animal bond may develop in course of occupational contact with specific animals. Considering this, under specific circumstances, the CVM will authorize the adoption of dogs and cats previously used for research purposes.

Conditions of Adoptions

- Adoption privileges are granted only for CVM staff, faculty, and students.
- Animals will be considered for adoption only if
 - the purpose the animal was acquired for no longer exists,
 - the animal will not be needed in another IACUC approved study,
 - an adopter has been identified to adopt the animal, and
 - the animal has been returned to AR.
- Animals will be qualified/disqualified for adoption as indicated on the University AUP by the Investigator.
- Animals will be considered for adoption only if considered clinically normal.
 - They must not have experienced any manipulation that has permanently altered their anatomical, physiological, metabolic, or locomotor function.
 - The animal must appear free of any detectable infectious or physical abnormality which would threaten animal or public health.
- Written requests for adoption must be sent to the Chairperson of the CVM Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). All adoption requests are considered on a case-by-case basis by the ACUC. Approvals for adoption will require a simple majority of a quorum of the ACUC. In all cases, the ACUC reserves the right to deny any adoption request.
- Investigators having an animal that will be placed for adoption will submit a letter to AR that explains, in lay terms, the procedures the animal underwent and the value of the research/training in advancing biomedical knowledge and/or human and veterinary medicine. This letter shall also assure, that in the investigator's opinion, the animal could make a suitable companion. This letter accompanies the animal when it is adopted and, for security reasons, omits any reference to the investigator's name, address, or contact information.
- Before being released for adoption, animals must be examined by a CVM clinician. Dogs and cats must be neutered and vaccinated prior to release. Animals will receive microchip identification. The person adopting the animal is responsible for the cost of examination, neutering, and vaccination.
- The individual adopting the animal must sign a waiver which states the UGA is

not liable for any injury or damage to persons or property by the adopted animal. The waiver further states that no warranties, guarantees, or promises of any kind have been made or can be made with regard to the adopted animal's physical condition or temperament. The owner assumes all further responsibilities associated with responsible companion animal ownership.

- Adoption-eligible animals that are not adopted will be returned to AR and humanely euthanized or assigned to another study.
- Any deviations from the provisions of this policy must be approved by the Director of AR, the Dean of the CVM, and a simple majority of a quorum of the CVM-ACUC.

For more information or to discuss adoption procedures, contact the Animal Resources Office, Room 206, 542-4173.