



Subject: Imaging of Animals for Clinical Purposes

Source: IACUC & Office of Laboratory Animal Resources
Effective Date: 12/09/24
Replaces: 12/14/20
Applies to: Animals owned by non-UC Denver Sources coming to campus for clinical imaging
Reference: Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals; Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals

Introduction

Animal procedures that are being performed for clinical purposes only, and not research, are not subject to The Animal Welfare Regulations, PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The current, USDA Veterinary Medical Officer for the University of Colorado was consulted regarding this and also agreed that animals imaged for clinical purposes only did not require an approved IACUC protocol. In addition, OLAW states in their Frequently Asked Questions “The veterinary clinical care of a privately owned animal is not a research activity and does not require IACUC approval. Veterinary clinical care is typically offered as a fee-for-service activity and is regulated by state veterinary licensing boards.”

This policy is meant to outline the types and locations of imaging activities that are permitted to occur at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver | Anschutz) on animals that are not covered by an IACUC approved protocol.

Policy Statement

All animals housed at CU Denver | Anschutz under an approved IACUC protocol may be imaged for bona fide veterinary related reasons to diagnose and treat medical conditions that may arise while the animals are housed in CU Denver | Anschutz facilities. These imaging procedures will only take place if approved by the University Veterinarian or their designee and can occur in any appropriate imaging center on campus to include the Small Animal Imaging Center in the RC1 vivarium, the Bioscience 3 Imaging Center and Brain Imaging Center (BIC) full size research imaging units.

Animals that are owned by a non-profit agency (i.e. Denver Zoo) or a private citizen may be imaged for clinical purposes only using CU Denver | Anschutz imaging modalities. Because these images will be for clinical purposes only, and not research, the animals will not be required to be covered by an approved IACUC protocol. Access by outside groups to imaging modalities housed within OLAR run vivariums will be subject to the approval of the Director of the Animal Imaging Core and the University Veterinarian.

Access to equipment in the vivarium will not be available to privately owned companion animals. Access by outside groups to imaging modalities housed outside of OLAR run vivariums will be subject to the approval of the Director of the Animal Imaging Core, the Director of the imaging center being used, and requires notification to the University Veterinarian. In all cases, a licensed veterinarian must be the responsible party managing any cases that are imaged on campus. This will include an appropriate anesthesia protocol with proper pre-, during, and post-procedure care managed by the licensed veterinarian and their staff. All imaging policies and procedures, including infection control, must also be followed.

Procedures

- An entity or individual that would like to image an animal using CU Denver | Anschutz resources will contact the Director of the Animal Imaging Core to make the request.



- The Director of the Animal Imaging Core will determine if the type of imaging requested is achievable and what equipment/ imaging center needs to be utilized.
- In all cases the University Veterinarian must be notified of the procedure to be performed including the dates, number of animals, and species of animals at least 24 hours in advance of the animal's arrival.
- All imaging protocols will be determined by the Director of the Animal Imaging Core and the veterinarian representing the animal to be imaged.
- Animals will be required to be anesthetized for imaging.
 - An anesthesia protocol for the animal to be imaged must be submitted to the Director of the Animal Imaging Core and the University Veterinarian or their designee in advance of the procedure to ensure that it is appropriate and manageable for the imaging procedure proposed.
- The animal care, including the anesthesia, contrast/ radioactive isotope injection and health monitoring of animals being imaged, will be the responsibility of the veterinarians in charge of the case. At no time will the University, OLAR, or the IACUC be responsible for privately owned animals.
- All applicable radiation safety and environmental hygiene rules and regulations must be followed when imaging outside animals.
- All procedures will be performed on a fee-for-service basis as established by the Regents of the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.