

Amended Policy for Use of Animals at Columbia College Chicago
Amendment to Faculty Handbook – Section 524 (as of 5/23/05)

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (1966, 1970, 1976, 1985, 1990) is the legislative mandate for animal welfare contained within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (US Code, Title 7, Sections 2131 to 2156). The USDA regulations implementing the AWA can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9. Section 1.1 of the AWA defines the terms used in the law and includes a definition of “animal” to indicate which categories of species this law regulates.

“Animal means any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or other warmblooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research; horses not used for research purposes; and other farm animals, such as but not limited to, livestock or poultry used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use in improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber.”

In addition to the exclusions listed above, because the law defines “animal” as “warmblooded” animals, “coldblooded” vertebrate animals **such as fishes, amphibians, and reptiles**, and invertebrate animals are also exempt from regulation under this law.

Columbia College Chicago adopts the definition of “animal” and the definition of “use” (in research, teaching etc.) listed above by the AWA. However, the college can only **allow** use of animals that are **excluded** from regulation by the AWA (i.e. birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, fishes, amphibians and reptiles, and invertebrate animals), live or dead. The rationale for this decision is that if AWA regulated animals were to be used, a much more complex set of federal requirements must be met, including registration with the federal government, review of proposals by a staff veterinarian, inspection of laboratory facilities for proper care of animals etc. The college does not have the current resources to establish such a review system and limited numbers of personnel are impacted. The Columbia College IRB will require the submission of an application form to review animal use protocols, if only to establish that AWA exempted animals are being used, and that the college is aware of the research being conducted by personnel. The approved applications will be assigned a tracking number, which can be used in personnel applications for funding, permits and publications. Personnel using exempt animals are expected to follow USDA animal welfare guidelines.

These policies have been established with the understanding that funding for animal use research and teaching is not from the Department of Health and Human Services. Research for the Public Health Service is legislated under the Health Research Extension Act (1985). Animals legislated under this act are more broadly defined as “any live vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes.” Again because of the requirements of compliance with the act, personnel are cautioned against using non-exempt animals in applications to federal funding agencies that would require compliance.

Exception: Personnel are permitted by the college to use non-exempted animals under AWA and the Health Research Extension Act, **IF** the animals are (1) used off campus at another academic or industry institution, and (2) the off-campus host institution has an established institutional animal care and use committee to oversee the use of animals. Personnel are required to submit to the Columbia College IRB the application and approval letter for use of animals at the host institution, in addition to the college's application form to review animal use protocols.