TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE POLICY ON ANIMAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE: (TUACUC) will review all concerns involving the care and use of animals at the Institution. The TUACUC procedures for reviewing concerns are as follows: 1) To ensure that specific instructions which describe how to report concerns regarding animal care and use in research, teaching, testing and demonstration at the University are posted on bulletin boards across the entire campus and in all University animal facilities. 2) To make sure that guidelines on the humane use of animals in teaching, research, testing and demonstration programs are listed in the Veterinary Student Handbook as well as including them in the University Undergraduate and Graduate Student, Faculty and Staff Handbooks and to further ensure that concerned individuals can report their complaints anonymously to members of the TUACUC and/or University Officials. Copies of these documents will be distributed at orientation to all first-year veterinary medical students. Also, copies of the guidelines will be accessible in the T.S. Williams Veterinary Medical and the Ford Motor Company Libraries and are presented to all researchers, technical staff and students during their orientation/training for participation in research utilizing experimental animals.

The University's policy regarding animal welfare is that it is the responsibility of each student, faculty and staff member to promote and protect the welfare of all animals used in the University’s research, teaching, testing and demonstration programs. If any individual(s) believe(s) that any of these guidelines are being violated, he/she may submit a verbal and/or written complaint and request a review of the procedures, etc. which resulted in the alleged violations.

All concerns are first reported to the Attending Veterinarian, who assesses the merits of the concern, and tries to address it to the satisfaction of the reporter. If the individual who reported the concern is not satisfied, the Attending Veterinarian reports the complaint to the TUACUC Chair and the Institutional Official (IO). If the situation warrants, the Chair may call an emergency meeting of the TUACUC. If not, then the reported concern is discussed at the next scheduled TUACUC meeting. The committee may decide that further investigation is required and will form a subcommittee to investigate the complaint. After the investigation is complete and the TUACUC has had the opportunity to review the findings, the committee will decide what action(s), if any are required, present its findings in writing to the individual filing the complaint and provide a copy to University Officials to include the (IO). If necessary, the IO will file a report with either the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) or the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) or both agencies. PLEASE NOTE: No one will be punished for providing this information.

APPROVED BY THE ATTENDING VETERINARIAN

Signed: Thomas C. Graham, DVM, PhD
Professor & University Attending Veterinarian

Reference: Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth: Edition 2010
National Research Council, National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.