



May 9, 2023

TO: Addressees
FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH
SUBJECT: Disposition of Laboratory Animals

Scientists, veterinarians, and facility managers may be subject to periodic requests from individuals to adopt or otherwise remove animals from animal facilities when studies are completed. Research animals, as well as other federal material and equipment, must not leave NIH property without prior authority. In the interest of public health and the well-being of all parties involved, it is NIH policy that no laboratory animals, alive or dead, may be removed from NIH custody without prior approval. Such approval authority resides with the IC Scientific Director or his/her designee.

If the transfer of ownership of a research animal is considered, in addition to approval from the IC Scientific Director or designee, the IC must complete a transfer of ownership agreement that identifies the terms of the transfer, health of the animal at the time of the transfer and relinquishes NIH of responsibility for the animal once the transfer has occurred. This transfer of ownership form should be developed and reviewed by the NIH Office of General Council. Please refer to the ARAC Guideline on [Post-Study Research Animal Disposition](#) for additional information.

You may contact me, or the Director, Office of Animal Care and Use at 301-496-5424 if additional clarifications are required.

Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.

Addressees:

IC Scientific Directors
IC ACUC Members
IC Animal Program Directors
IC Facility Veterinarians and Animal Facility Managers
NIH IRP Principal Investigators and Animal Users