



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

April 10, 2013

TO: Addressees

FROM: Deputy Director, Office of Intramural Research; Chair, NIH Animal Research Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: NIH-Wide Policy on Use of Embryonated Eggs

The [PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) applies to all live vertebrates including offspring hatched from eggs. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) expects Assured institutions to have policies and procedures in place that address the care or euthanasia of animals that hatch unexpectedly.

If an investigator purchases embryonated eggs with the intent of hatching the offspring for experimental use, the principal investigator must have an approved IC Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) animal study proposal (ASP) prior to placing the order for the embryonated eggs.

If the investigator, however, purchases embryonated eggs with no plans for hatching, and the eggs hatched unexpectedly, the standard operating procedures within the NIH Intramural Research Program is for the investigator to immediately contact the IC Animal Program Director [http://oacu.od.nih.gov/forms/IC_Contact.pdf], who shall conduct or direct the euthanasia of the hatched offspring as soon as possible and will notify their ACUC this event occurred.

Please direct questions or comments regarding the intent or contents of this memorandum to your IC ACUC or to the NIH intramural Office of Animal Care and Use.

Richard G. Wyatt, M.D.

Addressees:
Scientific Directors
IC Animal Program Directors
IC ACUC Chairpersons
NIH Intramural Principal Investigators