



June 5, 2014

TO: Addressees

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research

SUBJECT: Disposition of Laboratory Animals

This memorandum is an update of a similar memorandum dated January 18, 1995. 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 in 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 Scientific Director or his/her designee.

The PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Act are silent on the issue of private adoption of research animals for pets after a study has been completed and the animals are no longer required. The 9 Code of Federal Regulations recordkeeping regulations and official policies offer institutions the option of developing and implementing a policy for transfer of ownership. If 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 with assistance from the NIH Office of General Council.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gottesman".

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Addressees:

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