



September 28, 2022

To: Addresses

From: 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 investigator must have an IC Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) approved Animal Study Proposal (ASP) prior to placing the order for embryonated eggs.

If, however, the investigator purchases embryonated eggs with no plans for hatching, and the eggs hatch unexpectedly, the standard procedure within the NIH Intramural Research Program is for the investigator to immediately contact the IC Animal Program Director, who will conduct or direct the euthanasia of the hatched offspring as soon as possible and who will notify the IC ACUC of this unexpected adverse event.

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

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Addresses:
Scientific Directors
IC Animal Program Directors
IC ACUC Chairpersons
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