

USC Aiken Vertebrate Animal Rehoming/Adoption Policy

December 2020

In the event of that a vertebrate animal can no longer be housed and maintained within a facility on the USC Aiken campus, suitable housing and care may be found at a location off campus. The animal being rehomed must be in good health and not a transgenic (genetically modified) animal. The new home and caregiver must be able to provide quality accommodation for the animal and have a plan for emergency and potential rehoming if conditions become unsuitable. Principal Investigators are required to follow these guidelines when they make available research animals for adoption. The Principal Investigator (PI) must first indicate to the relevant USC Aiken department chair/dean that an animal is no longer needed for research/education purposes for which it was originally described.

The following must be considered and addressed in the Animal Adoption Agreement and a Waiver and Release of Claims document provided.

- The current health of the animal
 - If the PI is aware of any condition that may have an impact on the animal's suitability as a pet, this must be indicated in writing as an attachment
- Consideration of conditions of animals for adoption:
 - Animal must not be transgenic
 - The animal must not have been administered any drugs other than FDA-approved human or veterinary drugs or food supplements or pharmaceutically compounded veterinary drugs. If any FDA approved drugs have been administered to the animal the drug should be disclosed to the potential adopter.
 - Threatened or endangered species cannot be adopted.
 - In cases where animals require specialized permits, it is the responsibility of the adoptee to obtain the permit
 - Animals which have been exposed to infectious agents in course of the study protocol are not eligible for adoption.
- Describe why the animal is being rehomed (why is it no longer needed for research/education purposes)
- Describe how suitable food be provided (describe food source and feeding schedule)
- Describe container/housing to be provided (describe)
- Describe how temperature and other environmental factors will be controlled (explain)
- Describe how veterinary care will be provided (describe schedule or emergency only and name potential veterinarian)
- Are there other pets or children who will interact with the animal? (describe)
- What accommodations will be made to provide for the animal when caregivers are absent (during day and for longer periods such as holidays)
- If the animal can no longer be cared for by the caregiver, what plans will be made to seek alternative accommodation for the animal?
- The adopter/caregiver understands that upon adoption, USC Aiken is not responsible for any injury or disease caused by the animal to humans or other pets, or damage to property, and the animal is under the sole care of the caregiver.
- Additional medical and surgical procedures (e.g., spaying, neutering, de-clawing) must be performed by a practicing veterinarian off campus at the discretion of the owner.
- Once animals have been adopted, they cannot be returned to the Facility or housed in the Facility for any reason, whether temporarily or permanently.
- On the day the Animal Adoption Form and Waiver is signed the animal should be removed from the USC Aiken facility
- Caregiver must agree that animal will not be resold or given away unless under extreme conditions where caregiver can no longer provide adequate care.

Protocols for rehoming animals must be approved by the Principle Investigator, USC Aiken IACUC chair, and by the Institutional Officer. The caregiver must agree to these conditions upon adoption of the animal.