I. INTRODUCTION

As an institution dedicated to the development and dissemination of knowledge, ISU recognizes that carrying out this mission may, at times, require the use of animals. The issue of when and how animals are to be used for education and research is complicated and, at times, controversial. When such use is deemed appropriate, the University is responsible for ensuring it is done ethically, in full compliance with pertinent laws and regulations, and with consideration to humane treatment and scientific justification.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Animal Research: Any live vertebrate animal, or any other animal designated by applicable law, used or intended for use in basic or applied scientific investigations (e.g., traditional biomedical, agricultural, wildlife, or aquatic research), testing, the production of biological materials, or educational activities.
III. POLICY STATEMENT

A. All research conducted at ISU using animals will be governed by procedures and processes mandated by the U.S. Public Health Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). To meet this responsibility, ISU has created an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, or IACUC. The IACUC reports to the “Institutional Official,” or “IO,” who is the President or their designee. The IACUC is empowered by federal regulations to conduct general oversight, establish (and monitor compliance with) policies and procedures based on the regulations of the federal and international agencies mentioned above, conduct inspections of facilities, and fulfill other roles as required by federal regulations. The IACUC is also the proper body to contact with concerns about the proper and ethical use and care of animals under ISU auspices.

B. The IACUC is delegated the authority by the IO to develop policies and procedures, and to implement a program for care and use of animals in research, teaching, and testing that is compliant with applicable legal requirements.

C. The IACUC shall have the responsibility to review and the authority to approve, require modifications to secure approval, or withhold approval of, all research involving animal subjects conducted by the University or anyone using University facilities, in accordance with policies and procedures established for this purpose.

D. The IACUC has the authority to inspect research facilities and obtain animal records and other relevant information relating to projects it has approved. The IACUC may suspend or terminate approval of projects it has approved and take actions that it deems necessary to ensure compliance with applicable legal requirements and University policies or which have been associated with unexpected serious harm to subjects.

E. No individual or University committee may approve a project involving the use of animals for research, teaching, or testing that has not been submitted for review by the IACUC.

F. IACUC approval must be received before the use of animals for research, teaching, or testing can commence.

IV. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Enforcement of this policy is the responsibility of the Vice President for Research.
V. PROCEDURES

The institutional use of animals for research and/or education is regulated by federal law. It is the responsibility of the IACUC to develop (and update as necessary) detailed policies and procedures which ensure ISU complies with federal requirements and national and international standards for animal use and care. Further details can be obtained from the Idaho State University Office of Research website under the Animal Care Facility and IACUC sections.