



## Illinois Policy on Reporting Morbidity and Mortality in Animals Used in Research and Teaching

**Scope:** This policy applies to all vertebrate animals used in teaching and/or research that are housed in Illinois animal facilities.

**Background:** Federal regulations and professional standards mandate that Illinois establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care that is directed by the Illinois institutional veterinarian(s). The program must include daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being. A mechanism must be in place to ensure direct and frequent communication so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian. This mechanism must ensure that appropriate methods to control, prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and injuries under the direction of the attending veterinarian, are available 365 days of the year.

**Policy:** All animals must be observed at least once daily including weekends and holidays. The observations must be performed by trained individuals familiar with normal behavior and health of the species and the observation must be documented daily. The documentation must be readily available to IACUC and veterinary staff as well as regulatory inspectors. Individuals charged with performing animal observations, whether members of the animal husbandry or research staff, are responsible for reporting animal health or welfare related problems according to established procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, spontaneous illness and unexpected deaths. The Division of Animal Resources is responsible for establishing standard procedures for reporting animal morbidity and mortality in laboratory animal facilities and laboratories and the Office of the Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program is responsible for establishing standard procedures for agricultural animal facilities.

### Reference(s):

- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide), NRC, 1996
- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, FASS, 1999
- Animal Welfare Regulations, 9 CFR, chapter I, subchapter A
- Health Research Extension Act of 1985

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