

Tikrit University
College of Veterinary Medicine

ANIMAL ETHICS GUIDELINE

STRUCTURE, APPLICATION, AND
REVIEW PROCEDURE

2024
2025

FIRST
EDITION



Tikrit University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Animal Ethics Guideline
(Structure, Application, and
Review Procedure)

The goal of this guide is to promote the humane care of animals used in veterinary and biomedical research, teaching, and testing and enhance animal well-being during research periods. It also provides information that will improve the quality of the research and advance biological knowledge relevant to animals.

The Animal Ethics Committee at Tikrit University (College of Veterinary Medicine) was formed as a committee of the College Council and is responsible for ensuring the requirements of special guidelines and protocols for the use of animals for research, testing, and teaching requirements. Therefore, no faculty member or student may use animals for research (including administering medications to animals, scratching animals, collecting animal tissue, or even euthanizing animals) without prior approval from the Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). Applicants for a Certificate of Animal Ethics Approval must treat animals under their control with due care and consideration for their welfare and

use the animals in a way that causes them minimal stress and suffering.

The work conducted by the College of Veterinary Medicine at Tikrit University is designed to comply with all Animal Welfare Act 1999 ([the Act](#)) requirements. Therefore, the animal species specified in the law may only be used in research, testing, and teaching, and scientific experiments on animals do not conflict with the animal's natural physiological, behavioral, or anatomical integrity. Specific details about this matter can be found in (**Chapter Three**) of the law.

The Animal Ethics Committee reviews written applications for the use of animals in research, testing, and teaching and only issues approval for their use if it is satisfied that their use is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and complies with the regulations relating to the acquisition, possession, care and treatment of animals in an appropriate research setting.

Maximum approval period:

Approval is granted for a period of three months as determined by the Animal Ethics Committee. The Committee may approve a short extension (usually no more than 3 months) if this enables a research project or additional protocol to be completed within the extension period.

There are four possible outcomes for considering the application:

- 1- Approval of the application and the animal ethics officer will send a letter of approval to the applicant.
- 2- Conditional Approval: The Animal Ethics Officer will send a letter to the applicant, including a list of requirements for clarification(s) or amendment(s). Once the applicant resubmits their changed application, the Animal Ethics Officer will send a letter of approval.
- 3- Not approved (in its current form): If major revisions to the proposed research study are made at the request of the

committee, the applicant will be notified by letter and/or the chair or candidate may choose to discuss the requested revisions with the applicant.

4- Rejected: If the application is rejected, the Animal Ethics Officer will send a letter to the applicant stating the reasons given by the Committee for rejecting the application.

Principles of using animals in scientific experiments:

The rules for using animals in scientific experiments are based on three main principles called scientifically (3R):

1. Reducing the use of animals.
2. Replace animal use.
3. Reducing animal use.

Principles of conducting scientific research experiments on animals:

1. Design and implement scientific experiments based on their suitability to animal health.

2. Limiting the conduct of scientific and research experiments to laboratory animals, which include (mice, rats, rabbits, and guinea pigs).
3. Reducing the number of animals to the maximum possible extent without conflicting with the objectives of the scientific experiment.
4. Avoid or reduce discomfort, distress, and pain to animals, with the necessity of using appropriate painkillers, analgesics, or anaesthesia in every scientific experiment.
5. Providing appropriate education for the animals throughout the experiment period, which is directed and implemented by qualified people.
6. Conduct all experiments on live animals only.

Studies, tests or experiments that allow the use of animals in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Tikrit University:

- 1 .Studies for veterinary medical purposes, related to diseases or disorders affecting animals.
- 2 .Studies of a basic nature in the sciences related to the basic structure or function of animals (such as biology, molecular science, biochemistry, pharmacology, physiology, and anatomy).
- 3 .Studies to test products to protect humans, animals or the environment.
- 4 .Studies to develop products or devices for human or veterinary medicine, animal nutrition, animal reproduction and/or animal welfare.
- 5 .Studies of diagnostic and pathological tests.
6. Education and training of graduate and post-graduate students.

Standard methods of euthanasia:

Conditions for approval to grant a certificate for dealing with animals:

1. Ethics approval must be obtained before any use of animals for research, teaching or testing is undertaken and maintained for the duration of the animal use.
2. All matters related to approved scientific experiment procedures must be reported to the Animal Ethics Committee, which maintains oversight following the terms of the Laboratory Animal Manual approved at Tikrit University/College of Veterinary Medicine
3. Any proposed change to scientific experiment procedures and the reasons for this change must be submitted to the Animal Ethics Committee for approval. It must not be implemented except after obtaining written approval.
4. Scientific experiment procedures must be carried out only in buildings affiliated with Tikrit University/College of Veterinary Medicine and approved by the Animal Handling Committee.
5. The Laboratory Animal Handling Committee must be notified of any unexpected or adverse events that may

affect the safety of animals and the safety of animal primary health care workers.

6. Scientific experiments on animal models (dogs, cats) and other domestic animals are prohibited except within narrow medical and veterinary limits approved by the Animal Handling Committee.
7. A certificate of ethics in dealing with animals is granted after researchers or students fulfil the conditions stipulated in the guidelines for ethics in dealing with animals approved at Tikrit University/College of Veterinary Medicine.
8. A certificate of ethics in dealing with animals is granted after reading the guidelines and filling out the registration form No. (A) and the pledge form No. (B).

Changes to approved experiments or research projects

1. After approval, any subsequent modifications to experiments or research projects must be approved by the Animal Ethics Committee. This will require submitting an amendment request and filling out the amendment form (C). Amendment requests will be

considered by the Review and Evaluation Committee as follows:

2. Major amendments will be reviewed and approved by unanimous consent of the members of the Animal Ethics Committee.
3. Amendments of a minor nature will be reviewed and approved by the Committee Chair.

Minor modifications are limited to:

1. An increase of up to 10% over the total number of animals originally approved.
2. Add a procedure in which side effects on the animal's safety are minor.
3. Change in the animal breed to be used.
4. Change in the location of the research project or scientific experiment.

Monitoring and follow-up

1. The Animal Ethics Committee will conduct monitoring to ensure that all handling of live animals is in accordance with the Animal Ethics Guide. This may include, but is not limited to, the following:
2. Regular visits by committee members to buildings and laboratories approved by the Animal Ethics Committee

to conduct experiments or research projects for researchers and graduate students.

3. Animal ethical reviews: These are reviews of specific aspects of an experiment or research project (generally targeting methods of dosing, housing and euthanasia, new models being used and/or new procedures being implemented).

(This university procedure is complied with by all academic colleagues, researchers, and students of primary and postgraduate studies in all veterinary medicine/ Tikrit University)

Approval by the Council of the College of Veterinary Medicine / Tikrit University