CVM Policies and Procedures Handbook

Subject: *CVM Animal Adoption Policy*

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To Be Reviewed Yearly by: *AHC Director and Laboratory Animal Veterinarian*

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This policy applies only to animals owned by the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University.

1. No adoption is permissible by any state employee (full-time or part-time) who is in a position to decide, or to influence any decision, regarding the acquisition, use, or disposal of an animal. Individuals may not refuse to do required procedures on animals in anticipation of adopting a "normal" animal.

2. Ownership shall be transferred or the animal humanely euthanized as soon as the academic or research use is completed.

3. No animal may be disposed of by adoption until the animal has been utilized fully for educational or research purposes.

4. At the time of donation, the CVM's "Transfer of Ownership" form (illustrated on the following page) will be completed in full and signed by both CVM personnel (see 7 below) and the adopter.

5. No person may adopt an animal that has a real market value, i.e., no animal may be disposed of by CVM by adoption unless it is "cost effective" for CVM to do so.

6. No CVM-owned animals may be consumed as food without an "arms-length sale" (e.g., auction) with proceeds returning to CVM/MSU.

7. No animal may be disposed of by adoption if it is reasonable to assume that the adopter will receive a profit from ownership of the animal.

8. Only animals in good health and able to function as pet animals may be adopted. No obviously disfigured animals may be adopted. In each case, the University Laboratory Animal Veterinarian or the Director of the Animal Health Center will determine if the animal is healthy and suitable for adopton.

9. At the time of transfer of ownership from CVM to the adopter, the adopter must assume all financial responsibility for housing, care, and medication of that animal.

10. At the time of ownership transfer, the adopter must remove the animal from the CVM, unless hospitalization or medical services are deemed necessary by the CVM. The adopter will assume financial responsibility for those medical or surgical services.

Approved: Kent H Hoblet 3-24-2013

Kent H. Hoblet, Dean
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Date