



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: Animal Adoption Policy

Section: Student Policy & Procedures

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To Be Reviewed Yearly by: Academic and Student Affairs (Significant changes reviewed by MSU General Counsel)

Source:

Cross Reference:

Animal Adoption Policy

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 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. No animals previously client-owned may be disposed of outside of the original agreement.
9. 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 adoption.
10. 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.
11. 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.

Adoption of SAMS Laboratory Animals

We are fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the shelters that provide these animals for educational use. This mutual collaboration provides an extremely valuable educational opportunity for our students while also providing a beneficial service to the shelters and their patients. Numerous studies have shown a dramatic increase in adoptability of spayed or neutered animals. To protect the parties involved in this joint effort there are specific directives you must explicitly follow.

The following policy governs adoption of SAMS laboratory animals by MSU-CVM students:

- Students are required to wear a lab coat when entering the animal rooms. For biosecurity reasons, students are not allowed to handle the animals without the group that is assigned to the animal being present.
- The assigned surgery group will receive first right of adoption from the providing shelter if so desired. The necessary paperwork and fees require submission by noon the day before discharge (typically Wednesday) to the MDL Coordinator.
- If no adoption papers are submitted by noon the day before discharge, then from noon until 4 PM other students from the class or MSU-CVM faculty/students have the opportunity to adopt by preparing and submitting the necessary paperwork and fees to the MDL Coordinator
- An animal is not considered adopted until:
 - The adoption papers have been submitted to the MDL Coordinator and
 - The adoption fee has been paid and
 - The animal has been removed from the Mississippi State Campus
- Any animal not adopted by MSU-CVM students by 5 PM will be returned to the shelter the following day for adoption from there.
- No animals will be fostered or adopted to any outside organization or individual.
- NO PHOTOGRAPHS ARE TO BE TAKEN OF ANY ANIMAL OR PROCEDURE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF MSU-CVM FOR ANY PURPOSE.
- All communications with external parties regarding any animal or procedure performed in SAMS Laboratory must receive written approval from the course coordinator or MDL Coordinator.
- Any persons outside of the sophomore class with interest in adopting one of these animals should contact the MDL Coordinator for further instructions.

Approved: Kent H. Hoblet 2/5/14
Kent Hoblet, Dean Date
College of Veterinary Medicine