

1. PURPOSE

This plan is intended to prepare Sam Houston State University (SHSU) faculty and staff for a threat or crisis involving SHSU laboratory animal care and use programs. The plan sets forth a strategy for response should a crisis occur.

2. REVIEW

This policy and procedure will be reviewed as needed (AN) by the University Attending Veterinarian and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) with recommendations for revision presented to the Associate Vice President for Research.

3. POLICY/PROCEDURE

Responsible and sound animal care and use programs, properly communicated, reduce the risk, but do not eliminate the potential, for a crisis involving animal care and use.

The use of animals is essential to teaching and research in a research institution. At the same time, the use of animals carries an obligation for appropriate care and use. Therefore, each staff member, student, faculty member, and research investigator is directly responsible to promote and protect animal welfare within the instructional and research programs of the University. This responsibility should be conveyed by example and extends to the education of future employees of the academic community.

All faculty members should be aware of University policies and procedures regarding the use of animals. These policies and procedures for animal use in biological, agricultural, and chemically-related research endeavors are located on the SHSU IACUC website within the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). This document is available from the Administrator (RCA). Department chairs should be certain that all faculty members using animals in biological or agricultural teaching, testing, or research have a copy of the policies and procedures described. Likewise, if staff are involved with the care and use of animals, their faculty supervisor should make certain they are informed of the IACUC policies.

It is especially important to be responsive to concerns raised about animal care and use within the University. All such concerns expressed by faculty, staff, students, or the public should be responded to and reported to the University IACUC Chair of the SHSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

All persons using animal facilities are responsible for security in those facilities. Doors are to be locked during off duty hours. Any person not recognized as having legitimate business in an animal facility should be challenged. University Police should be called if there is any problem regarding unauthorized presence in an animal facility.

All tours of the biological/agricultural/chemical

resident for Research, the RCA, the SHSU EHS&RM Offices, the University
Police, and University Rel