

IACUC02 TITLE: **IACUC Policy on the Use of Tissues Collected from Euthanized Animals**

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The Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy do not provide specific guidelines on the use of euthanized animals or tissues collected from euthanized animals. In fact, The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) consider use of shared tissues from euthanized animals an effective application of the three Rs: replacement, reduction, and refinement. An animal protocol is not always required for work with tissue collected postmortem for this reason.

**An animal protocol IS required if:**

- Live animals will undergo procedures before euthanasia to satisfy a study objective
- Live animals are euthanized specifically to satisfy a study objective (e.g., tissue collection) even if no procedures are performed before euthanasia
- Tissues collected from euthanized animals will be used in live animals

**An animal protocol is NOT required if:**

- Animals are euthanized in the normal course of approved experiments on an approved protocol **AND** additional tissues collected from the euthanized animals will be used in an *in vitro* project

For example: A protocol is approved for experiments where animals are euthanized for collection of brain tissue. The PI receives a request from another investigator to share lung tissue from the same euthanized animals for an unrelated *in vitro* project. In this scenario an animal protocol is not required to harvest the lungs.

Please note that investigators **cannot** euthanize animals solely to provide another investigator with tissues. Tissue can only be shared when animals are euthanized in the normal course of experiments on an approved protocol.

Please contact the IACUC Office ([dfci\\_iacuc@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:dfci_iacuc@dfci.harvard.edu)) if you have any questions about this policy.

**References:**

1. Silverman, Jerald. "Optimal Animal Use." *Lab Animal* 26.3 (1997): 21. Print.
2. Silverman, Jerald, Mark A. Suckow, and Sreekant Murthy, eds. *The IACUC Handbook*. 2nd ed. Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2007. (8:7, 14:28.) Print.