

# LABORATORY ANIMAL ADOPTION PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Division of Comparative Medicine, University of South Florida

## I. PREAMBLE

The University of South Florida (University) recognizes the important contributions made by animals to research, teaching, and understanding of life and disease. Occasionally, animals owned by the University and cared for by the Division of Comparative Medicine become suitable for adoption. The purpose of this policy is to provide a procedure by which such animals can, under specific conditions be adopted by University faculty, staff, or students.

## II. POLICY

When deemed appropriate by a University veterinarian, the University will permit University faculty, staff, or students to adopt animals originally intended to be used as subjects of research or teaching. Animals suitable for adoption may be of a variety of different species.

## III. PROCEDURES

Principle Investigators must declare in writing whenever they deem an animal as eligible for adoption. A Comparative Medicine veterinarian must examine animals declared eligible for adoption. The examining veterinarian is responsible for determining the suitability of the animal for adoption.

University faculty, staff or students wishing to adopt an animal identified by a Principal Investigator as eligible for adoption, and determined by a Comparative Medicine veterinarian as suitable for adoption, will be interviewed by a Comparative Medicine veterinarian. The veterinarian will determine that the requesting individual is willing and able to provide for the requested animal's welfare.

The Comparative Medicine veterinarian or their designee will inform the requesting individual of the animal's health history.

The requesting individual must sign an *Animal Adoption Agreement*.

By signing an *Animal Adoption Agreement* the requesting individual will be evidencing his/her understanding of and unconditional agreement with the following conditions of transfer:

- The adopter agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the University, its trustees, officers, employees, and agents from any and all liability resulting from the animal or its actions once ownership has been transferred and the animal has left the facilities of Comparative Medicine.
- The University accepts no liability for the animal's continuing care or veterinary treatment once ownership of the animal has been transferred and it has left the facilities of Comparative Medicine.
- The adopter agrees to provide and care for the animal in full accordance with all applicable laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the adopter and /or the animal resides.