

## Policies and Procedures for Persons Authorized to Access Animal Anatomic Specimens\* for Scholarly Purposes

[\* The term "Anatomic Specimens" is defined as whole animal cadavers, or portions thereof derived from surgical procedures or necropsy, which are used for education, research, and related scholarly purposes.]

### Sources of animal anatomic specimens

- 1) Purchase of previously embalmed animals from commercial companies and purchase of large animals that are euthanized and embalmed by UF staff members.
- 2) Animal cadavers from the Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) following euthanasia by ACAS staff.
- 3) Donation of live privately-owned animals for research and/or teaching purposes. (Donation Release Form is used).
- 4) Necropsy specimens after necropsy is complete and tissues have been harvested for diagnostic purposes (Euthanasia and Body Disposal form is used).
- 5) Surgical pathology specimens submitted for diagnostic purposes.

### Procedures for the donation of privately owned animals

1) The Euthanasia and Body Disposal permission form is used for animals being euthanized by a VMTH clinician prior to necropsy, and for animals that have died naturally and are to have a necropsy performed. Permission to perform a necropsy is also documented by the attending clinician's signature on the necropsy request form. Permission to euthanize an animal and/or perform a necropsy may be obtained by telephone when clients are not available to sign the Euthanasia and Body Disposal form. Such verbal permission is documented by a signed necropsy request form. The signed necropsy form accompanying dead animals submitted for necropsy by private practitioners documents permission for necropsy and disposal of body.

2) The Donation Release permission form is used when live animals are donated for research and/or teaching purposes. Animal ownership is transferred to the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and permission is given to euthanize the animal and dispose of the body as the CVM deems appropriate.

Persons responsible for anatomic specimens during the time that they are stored or are in use in veterinary medical education and research

1) Embalmed animals (whether purchased as such or embalmed at UF) will be maintained by the CVM anatomy technician in the anatomy facilities under the supervision of appropriate CVM anatomy faculty members.

2) Permanent anatomic specimens (bones, plastinated tissues, formalin-fixed tissues, etc.) will be maintained by appropriate individual faculty members using this material in the teaching of their courses.

3) Animal cadavers from the Alachua County Animal Services (ACAS) will be the responsibility of the faculty member requesting the cadavers. These cadavers are used fresh (not embalmed) and then destroyed.

4) Donated live animals are the responsibility of the clinician accepting the animal. Once they are euthanized, the clinician may retain responsibility for the cadaver, or transfer it to the anatomic pathology service for disposal.

5) Animal bodies that have been necropsied are the responsibility of the anatomic pathology service. Cadaver parts may be transferred to other faculty members for use in scholarly activities, and once these activities are complete, these anatomic specimens will be returned to the anatomic pathology service for disposal.

#### Handling of anatomic specimens

1) Bequests of animal remains to the College of Veterinary Medicine represent a direct and important contribution to veterinary medical teaching and research. Such donations allow veterinary faculty members and students the opportunity to closely examine, evaluate, and understand the detailed structure of animal bodies and the disease processes affecting them. It is the policy of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine that all animal anatomic specimens are treated with the utmost respect at all times.

2) IACUC approval is required for the use of animal anatomic specimens in teaching and research, except for embalmed specimens purchased from a commercial supplier. IACUC approval is not required for veterinary pathologists performing necropsy and surgical pathology diagnostic procedures or for use and storage of tissues collected during these procedures.

3) No animal anatomic specimens will be allowed to leave University of Florida property, except to be used for educational or research purposes. In these cases, permission must be obtained from the faculty member responsible for maintaining the specimen.

4) Once animal anatomic specimens are no longer needed for scholarly activities, they will be disposed of by cremation.