



Mahidol University Announcement
on Guidelines for the Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes,
B.E. 2567 (2024)

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The announcement is issued in response to the recognition of the importance of the use of animals for scientific purposes and to ensure that animal use in scientific endeavors complies with the Animals for Scientific Purposes Act, B.E. 2558 (2015), the university's policy on the use of animals for scientific purposes, and relevant standards, regulations, laws, and other related requirements, resulting in high-quality research.

By virtue of Section 34 (1) of Mahidol University Act, B.E. 2550 (2007), the announcement is issued as follows:

Article 1 In this announcement,

“University” means Mahidol University.

“Committee” means the institutional animal care and use committee.

“Principal investigator” means the principal investigator of the research project that requires the use of animals.

Article 2 Users and breeders of animals for scientific purposes must have a license to use and/or breed animals for scientific purposes issued by the National Research Council of Thailand, as applicable. They must possess the necessary knowledge, experience, and expertise to operate their research as well as conduct their project in the registered facilities as specified in the Animals for Scientific Purposes Act, B.E.2558 (2015).

Article 3 Projects that are required to be submitted for approval shall meet one of the following criteria:

3.1 The projects use animals specified in Animals for Scientific Purposes, B.E. 2558 (2015), and relevant ministerial regulations (see attachment).

3.2 The projects use animal carcasses or samples, such as blood, serum, body fluids, urine, organs, tissues, or any part of animals. This includes animal samples received from other projects and the production of cell lines from animals.

3.3 The projects involve entering animal observation areas, setting up cameras to photograph animals, viewing animals, collecting animal droppings and samples left by animals, and observing animal behavior in the wild or on farms, which may, for scientific purposes, affect the normal life of the animals.

Article 4 Projects that are not required to be submitted for approval from the committee include those using animal carcasses or samples obtained through commercial purchase, those using frozen preserved cell culture samples, those using samples from previous projects that have already been publicized, and those using data from secondary databases.

Article 5 For the use of animals for scientific purposes within the university, the principal investigator must submit the project to the committee at the operating facility for approval. In the event that the operating facility does not have its committee, the principal investigator must contact Mahidol University's Center of Ethical Reinforcement for Research to seek approval from the university's central committee.

Article 6 For the use of animals for scientific purposes at a facility outside the university, the following procedure must be followed:

6.1 If the external organization has its committee or standard procedures, the principal investigator must submit the project for approval to the committee at the facility where the work will be conducted. In this regard, the principal investigator must inform their affiliated institution in writing together with a copy of the approval document once it is received.

In the case of the main project with multiple subprojects, if only some of the subprojects involve the use of animals, the principal investigators of those subprojects are responsible for submitting documentation to inform their affiliated institution.

6.2 If the external organization does not have its own committee, for example, for the project conducted at a farmer's field, the principal investigator must submit the project for approval to the committee at their affiliated institution or to the university's central committee as specified in Article 5.

Article 7 The documents required to be submitted for an ethics review include:

7.1 A full protocol ethics review for projects where animals are bred and for used at the operating facility

7.2 An exemption protocol ethics review form for projects in which there is no breeding or ongoing use of animals at the operating facility, and/or in which animals are captured only once for collecting samples at their natural habitats. In this regard, the risks to the animals must be assessed and prioritized. This form is also for those that involve the use of animal carcasses and samples, such as blood, serum, body fluids, urine, organs, tissues, or any part of animals from previous projects, as well as those involving entering animal observation areas, setting up cameras to photograph animals, viewing, and observing animal behaviors that may intrude on animals' habitats or lairs.

Article 8 Animal users and breeders must provide comprehensive information about the plan and procedures for animal handling in their project proposals, along with the justification, necessity, and benefits of the use of animals for enhancing human and animal wellbeing or academic advancement. Additionally, evidence and information showing that there are no alternative methods suitable for replacing the use of animals must be presented.

Article 9 In case of any amendment to the project after initial approval by the committee, the principal investigator must inform the committee and seek their approval before proceeding with the changes.

Article 10 The progress of the projects will be reviewed every six months by the committee, who will collect and report the results to the Institute of Animals for Scientific Purposes Development, National Research Council of Thailand, twice a year, as follows:

10.1 The first review is in April for the report covering the progress from October to March.

10.2 The second review is in October for the report covering the progress from April to September.

Article 11 Projects that require the use of animals are subject to visits from the committee at the facility specified in the proposal.

Article 12 Upon the completion of the project, the principal investigator must inform the committee of the project closure.

Henceforth.

Issued on 5 August 2024



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