



INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
GUAYAMA CAMPUS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND ANIMAL SCIENCES
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

**Animal Welfare Concern Reporting Policy
(Veterinary Technology Program Whistleblower Policy)**

The Veterinary Technology Program (VTP) of Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Guayama Campus (IAUPR-GC) is committed to the humane care of all animals used by faculty, staff, and students. Each animal care and use protocols is reviewed and approved by IAUPR's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any person aware of potential violations to animal care and use regulations or who observes misuse or mistreatment of animals is gratefully encouraged to report these concerns.

Individuals reporting animal welfare concerns may do so without fear of discrimination or reprisal. Confidentiality of the individual reporting the concern will be protected unless necessary to conduct the review. Reports should be informed in good faith without malice to damage another person or the institution.

Concerns may be expressed at the immediate level and brought to the attention of the VTP Director through the Veterinary Technology Program Animal Welfare Concern Report. The complaint should include a factual description of the event with the date, time, location, animal species, identification of animals, specific care or handling concerns, and other relevant details. The VTP director, faculty, or staff must promptly act to investigate and/or resolve the issue.

Reporting to the IACUC

- If the individual is uncomfortable, unsatisfied, or reluctant to report to the immediate level, the concern may be submitted to the IACUC Officer along with a completed Veterinary Technology Program Animal Welfare Concern Report. The reporting individual may choose to remain anonymous; however, it is necessary that inquiries have specific and detailed information.
- When a concern is reported and in conformity with the Animal Welfare Act Section 2.31(c) (4), the IACUC will review, and if warranted, investigate all allegations. Immediate steps will be taken to ensure that the animal care and use in question is appropriate and that the highest animal welfare standards are always maintained.

Complaints may be submitted to the following individuals:

Veterinary Technology Program Director: Prof. Madeline Villafañe |
madeline.villafane@guayama.inter.edu | 757-864-2222 ext. 2295

Institutional Director for Academic Research and IACUC Alternate Institutional Official:
Fredeswinda Rivera Ocasio | frivera@inter.edu | 787-766-1912 ext. 2432

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee | iacuc.inter.edu |