I. Introduction

This policy details the procedures that have been developed by the Animal Care Committee (ACC) to determine the eligibility of University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) owned animals for adoption and the process to adopt such eligible animals.

II. Animal Eligibility Requirements for Adoption

A. All animals, excluding murids and nonhuman primates, are eligible for adoption providing the following criteria are met:
   1. Animals must have acceptable behavior as determined by a species-specific behavioral assessment.
   2. Animals must be in good health and not at risk for potentially chronic health conditions (either spontaneously occurring or related to experimental use).
   3. Animals are not able to be used on another ACC approved protocol. The needs of the UIC research and teaching programs, and the research community, will be taken into account before animals are considered for adoption.

B. If an animal is considered to be a candidate for adoption, the adoption must be approved by the Principal Investigator (PI), Attending Veterinarian, and the ACC.

III. Adopter Eligibility

A. UIC staff, employees, students, and closely affiliated individuals may be eligible to adopt an animal.
B. Potential adopters must fill out the Questionnaire for Prospective Adopters and be interviewed by the veterinary staff to determine that they understand the commitment and can adequately care for the animal.
C. Animals are adopted for the purpose of being a pet and cannot be sold, used for food, used in any activity that would endanger their health and well-being, or used for breeding.
D. The adopter is responsible for all future animal care, including veterinary.
E. Inquiries from the general public will not be considered.

IV. Adoption Process

The procedures for the adoption of an animal are:
A. The Attending Veterinarian will be notified when a PI no longer needs an animal for their research protocol.
   The Attending Veterinarian will determine if the animal is needed for research or teaching on an approved protocol at UIC, or within the research community or if there is a requirement by the funding agency for adoption.
B. If the animal is not able to be used in the research and teaching program, it will undergo a behavioral assessment, a veterinary exam, and its medical and/or experimental record(s) will be assessed to determine if the animal is a candidate for adoption. Conditions and/or behaviors that may exclude an animal from being eligible for adoption include:
   1. Behavioral issues (e.g. aggressive behavior directed towards humans and/or other animals)
2. Spontaneous health conditions that cause, or have the potential to cause, chronic health concerns
3. Experimental conditions or procedures that cause, or have the potential to cause, chronic health conditions (e.g. implanted devices, exposure to infectious agents, and/or compound administration)

C. If an animal is suitable for adoption, and the protocol did not specify adoption as the final disposition of the animal, the PI will submit a protocol modification to the ACC requesting adoption as the disposition of the animal. The modification must be approved by the ACC in order for the animal to be adopted.

D. Following approval, the Institutional Official will be notified and has the right to deny any adoption request.

E. The adopter must fill out the Research Animal Adoption Agreement in order to transfer ownership (see below).

F. Exceptions to the adoption policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the ACC.

V. Transfer of Ownership

A. Once an eligible adopter has been matched with an animal that has been approved for adoption by the ACC, the Research Animal Adoption Agreement will be executed. The Research Animal Adoption Agreement specifies that the adopter is responsible for all future animal care, including veterinary.

B. Prior to leaving UIC, the animal will be given species-appropriate medical care, such as being neutered, given any necessary vaccinations, and any tattoo identification numbers will be altered.

C. The animal history given to the adopter will be limited to the Health Summary Sheet which excludes any research or research-associated data.

D. Once the animal leaves UIC, UIC is no longer responsible for the animal’s care, and the animal cannot be returned to the institution.