Animal Research – Use of animals as part of a human subject’s research study

Modified: March 2017

Background:

Some research protocols involving human subjects also involve the use of live animals. Informed Consent forms may leave out information about the use of animals for testing purposes. This could pose a problem for religious and secular groups whose beliefs oppose the use of live animals in this way.

Q: What is the UF IRB’s position regarding informing study subjects regarding the use of animals as part of a human subjects research study?

The IRB recommends the following:

1. Subjects are entitled to know what research procedures will be performed. A brief statement of the research being performed in the laboratory is appropriate.
2. When animals are used, a statement should be made acknowledging this fact, and the subject should be encouraged to ask for more information if there is a problem or conflict.
3. Subjects should be informed that the use of animals in the projects has also been reviewed and approved by the University of Florida Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC), a committee completely distinct from the IRB.

Q: What is an example of a statement that can be used when a human research study involves the use of animals?

The IRB does not require an overly burdensome description. The following could serve as a template that can be modified by the investigator to fit specific protocols.

“What will be done with your blood sample? Your blood sample will be taken to the research laboratory where factors in the liquid portion of your blood (plasma) will be tested for their ability to cause hemorrhagic fever in laboratory mice. The University of Florida’s Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee has approved the use of mice for this research project. The Principal Investigator can answer any questions you might have about the research.”