

Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program Policy for Provision of Health Care for Agricultural Animals Imported to the UIUC Livestock and Poultry Units for Use in Research and Teaching

Purpose:

The following document describes the sharing of costs for health care provided to agricultural animals imported to the UIUC production herds/flocks from outside sources.

Summary:

Contingent upon completion of required preconditioning of the animals prior to shipment from the source herd, the Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program (AACUP) HMO will share in costs for veterinary care.

Background:

The Agricultural Animal Care and Use Program must ensure adequate veterinary care for agricultural animals assigned to research and teaching protocols at UIUC. When animals used in research and teaching are born or hatched on our production units, the costs of health care are subsidized by the AACUP HMO.

The HMO was established with three primary goals:

- 1) to ensure provision of adequate veterinary care as mandated by the federal Animal Welfare Act,
- 2) to minimize economic constraints that could result in hesitancy by those caring for the animals to call for veterinary services for an ill or injured animal,
- 3) to maintain fiscal responsibility in providing veterinary services through sharing of the costs among the institution, the investigators and the academic units.

The HMO pays for providing routine health maintenance such as vaccines, disease surveillance and prophylactic treatments for UIUC resident herds or flocks. The HMO also pays for the treatment of injured or ill UIUC agricultural animals. The HMO does not cover costs for veterinary services or medicaments that are directly related to research protocol activities or procedures. For example, if an animal develops complications from a surgical procedure, 100% of the costs of treating the clinical conditions arising from that procedure are the responsibility of the investigator.

The HMO budget for FY09 was \$240,000 and will be increased by up to 5% annually to accommodate inflationary increases in the costs of services and supplies. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research provides 75% of the funding (\$180,000 in FY09). The academic units that manage the agricultural animal facilities (the Department of Animal Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine) contribute the remaining 25% (\$60,000 in FY09). The proportion billed to each animal unit by the academic unit depends on the proportion of the total HMO budget used by that unit. In FY08, the HMO costs exceeded the budget, which resulted in a charge to the Department of Animal Sciences of approximately \$36,000. Therefore, we must carefully monitor health care expenses.

Animals from outside sources present health risks to the resident herd and may themselves become ill upon exposure to pathogens endemic to the UIUC units. However, health care costs can be minimized through appropriate communications with the source herds and preconditioning of the animals. Responsibilities for the costs of health care for animals imported to the UIUC agricultural animal system are assigned below.

Proposal:

The goals of the proposal are:

- 1) to ensure that all agricultural animals used in research and teaching are provided adequate veterinary care as mandated by the Animal Welfare Act
- 2) to minimize the risk of disease transmission between imported animals and UIUC herds
- 3) to maintain appropriate oversight of the health and well-being of imported agricultural animals
- 4) to minimize hesitancy by animal care staff or students in requesting veterinary care for ill or injured imported animals due to budgetary constraints
- 5) to establish an equitable cost sharing program for providing health care for imported animals that will not overburden the HMO or the PI

Stipulation:

Funds from the HMO may be used to reduce costs to the investigator when animals are imported to the UIUC from outside vendors *if appropriate preconditioning processes have been followed* and the necessary funding is available in the HMO annual budget.

Importing Agricultural Animals that are Eligible for Full Use of the HMO:

- 1) The PI must provide to the AACUP Species Veterinarian the contact information for the veterinarian(s) and/or owner(s) of the source herd well before the intended shipping date.
- 2) The AACUP Species Veterinarian must then contact the source herd veterinarian and/or owner to determine the health status of the incoming animals and to recommend preconditioning and prophylactic measures (eg, vaccination, deworming) prior to shipping.
- 3) Whenever possible, prophylaxis should be completed at the source herd so that incoming animals
 - a) remain healthy in the face of stresses associated with shipping and acclimation to the new environment,
 - b) are protected against pathogens present in UIUC herds, and
 - c) present fewer risks of transmitting pathogens to UIUC animals.
- 4) The AACUP Species Veterinarian must convey the preconditioning requirements to the PI and livestock unit manager.
- 5) Before arrival of the animals, the PI and/or manager must communicate with the vendor to confirm that prophylactic procedures were performed as expected. Pre-shipment prophylaxis is assumed to be included in the cost of the animals and is therefore paid for by the PI. Ultimately, preconditioning should result in savings to the PI through reduced disease incidence and death losses.
- 6) The AACUP Species Veterinarian must recommend an arrival/post-arrival treatment and testing plan to the PI and unit manager. This may include antibiotics, electrolyte therapy, vaccinations, deworming, diagnostic testing, and/or increased health monitoring.
- 7) If preconditioning has been conducted as recommended by the Species Veterinarian, the costs of post-arrival prophylaxis, and/or treatment of illnesses or injuries can be charged to the HMO. As for all HMO users, the PI will be expected to pay into the HMO at a rate that covers 25% of the health care costs associated with these animals unless prearranged otherwise with the academic unit.

Importing Agricultural Animals that are NOT Eligible for Full Use of the HMO

- 1) If the preconditioning plan has not been executed as per instructions from the Species Veterinarian, the HMO will not cover the cost of post-arrival prophylaxis or treatment

and 100% of the health care costs incurred during a 2-week acclimation period will be charged to the PI.

- 2) Health care costs that occur after the 2-week acclimation period can be applied to the HMO except when associated with chronic conditions resulting from failure to precondition.
- 3) The Species Veterinarian will be responsible for identifying such cases and the PI will be billed directly.

Protocol Related Health Care Costs

- 1) 100% of the costs of providing health care for animals that die or become ill or injured as a *direct result* of the research protocol procedures will be charged to the PI.
- 2) In the case of mortality, the PI must be prepared to pay for necropsy (when the cause of death is not obvious). In cases that are not straight-forward, the Species Veterinarian or Attending Veterinarian for Agricultural Animals will make the determination as to whether morbidity or mortality was protocol associated.
- 3) If special procedures such as castration, dehorning or estrus synchronization must be conducted on imported animals to make them appropriate for research or teaching, these procedures should either be conducted prior to shipping or 100% of the cost of conducting the procedures after the animals have arrived at UIUC will be charged to the PI.
- 4) Tests and procedures specifically conducted as part of a research or teaching project are paid for 100% by the PI.

Budgeting for Health Care Costs

- 1) When preparing grant submissions, the PI should include sufficient funds in the budget to cover protocol related health care costs, contributions to the HMO, and health care costs not eligible for the HMO.
- 2) He or she is strongly encouraged to consult the Species Veterinarian and unit manager for guidance.

Adopted 09/04/09

Attending Veterinarian for Agricultural Animals _____