

Subject: **Dealers Selling Surgically-Altered Animals to Research** **Policy #16**

References: AWA Section 13(a)(3)(A,B,C,D,E)
9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.31 (d)(1)(i,ii,iv,viii,ix,x)

History: Provides requested guidance.

Justification: No animal is to be used in more than one major survival operative procedure except in cases of scientific necessity or veterinary care. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is to ensure that survival surgery will avoid or minimize pain and is aseptically performed by qualified personnel.

Policy: A dealer performing surgery on animals as a necessary part of a proposed animal activity at a research facility must also register as a research facility and/or be a site of the research facility requesting the altered animals.

Dealers that register as research facilities will comply with all the regulations pertaining to research facilities. Their IACUCs must ensure that all requirements are met before approving the activities associated with the surgical alteration of the animal. If the alteration involves a major operative procedure, the animal must be identified to prevent its use in another major survival operative procedure.

Research facilities that list dealers' premises as sites under their registration are responsible for the animals at the dealers' facilities which are covered under their proposals. The IACUC must inspect all dealers' sites housing animals covered under their proposals. The research facility must also ensure that the person(s) at the dealers' sites performing the proposal procedures is qualified.

Dealers performing routine veterinary care or animal husbandry that involves surgery not required for a research proposal are not required to register as a research facility. Examples include, but are not limited to, neutering, dehorning, and debarking.