

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at Michigan State University has developed the following guideline for adoption of University-owned animals.

### **Background**

Upon completion of teaching and research projects, a determination will be made as to whether University-owned animals, utilized in projects and no longer suitable for other use by the University, are appropriate for adoption.

All decisions regarding suitability of an animal for adoption and whether a request to adopt will be granted are within the discretion of the University. University-owned animals will be made available only through Michigan State University, and any third party purporting to offer university-owned animals for adoption do not have the legal right to do so and cannot transfer ownership of any such animal.

The fiscal responsibility for any medical care and per diems will remain the responsibility of the principal investigator or home department following completion of the project until adoption is finalized.

### **Conditions for adoption**

- The Attending Veterinarian or designees within Campus Animal Resources (CAR), along with the Principal Investigator, Farm Manager, and/or Institutional Official will review requests for adoption on a case-by-case basis, taking into account, among other things, the potential adopters' capability of fulfilling the veterinary care, sheltering and financial obligations inherent to animal ownership.
- The animal's health, attitude, and behavior must be evaluated by a Campus Animal Resources (CAR) veterinarian.
- Certain experimental procedures may preclude an animal from being a candidate for adoption. These include, but are not limited to: major experimental surgical procedures, infection with biohazards or immunosuppressed animals.
- The adopter must have an affiliation (e.g. student, employee, client) with Michigan State University.

### **Procedures**

- A. Initiation of Adoption
  1. Potential adopters may make adoption inquiries to the facility supervisor, Principal Investigator, or Farm manager. The Principal Investigator must then provide permission for the adoption to the CAR veterinary staff.
  2. Potential adopters will be screened by the CAR veterinary staff for their suitability, qualifications, and knowledge of appropriate care required for the animal.
- B. Medical care
  1. Animals should be deemed clinically healthy, of appropriate disposition, and free of internal and external parasites based upon review and/or physical examination by a CAR veterinarian.
  2. Diagnostic testing and/or appropriate vaccinations and parasiticide treatments may be ordered and administered prior to adoption.
  3. Prior to adoption, sexually intact animals of an acceptable age may be required to undergo surgical sterilization.
- C. Transfer of Ownership
  1. At the time of adoption, a note will be made in the animal's permanent clinical record with a Final Disposition form that the animal was adopted out as for private ownership.
  2. The MSU Animal Adoption Agreement must be signed and copied; one copy to the adopter and one copy to be included in the permanent animal record.
  3. Once the animal leaves the facility, it is the possession of its new owner, and Michigan State University will no longer be responsible for the animal or any related health care or behavioral concerns.

### **Attachments**

MSU Animal Adoption Agreement

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ANIMAL ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am adopting an animal from the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University and agree to be fully responsible for the care, treatment, actions, and well-being of this animal. Furthermore, I acknowledge that I am adopting this animal solely as my personal pet and not for use in any illegal or harmful activity that may have adverse effects upon the animal or MSU.

It has been explained to me that the below referenced animal has been examined by the Attending Veterinarian or AV- designee, as evidenced by their signature below. Any health conditions or abnormal conditions known to exist at the time of adoption have been explained to me, and I affirm that I am capable of handling all the obligations connected with the care and treatment of the animal. I have had an opportunity to ask about any health and care related questions, and each question has been answered to my satisfaction. I am fully aware that this animal may have been a subject of a study at Michigan State University. I acknowledge that I have been given the opportunity to obtain a summary of the medical record of the animal.

Veterinary staff will make every attempt to assure that the animal is in good general health and condition when it is adopted. Because of biosecurity concerns, the University cannot accept the animal back into the research facilities once it leaves. The AV strongly encourages that the adopted animal be seen by a veterinarian in private practice as soon as possible after the adoption.

Animal ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Signalment: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that a pet or farm animal addition is a long-term commitment, and it will be totally dependent on me for its daily care. I agree to accept full ownership responsibility for this animal, including any and all future costs related to the animal's care, housing, behaviors and well-being, and release Michigan State University and its trustees, employees and agents from all liability related to the ownership of the animal. I have thoroughly reviewed this Animal Adoption Agreement and concur that all the terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted for the purpose of making a final adoption of the animal.

**Adopting Owner:**

**Examining Veterinarian:**

**Principal Investigator/  
Facility or Farm Manager:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Examination

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Adoption Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (cont.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature