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**VSU Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) and
Protocol Review and Approval Process**
(IACUC Operational Document)

Introduction

The University is committed to adhering to ethical standards in the conduct of experimental procedures requiring animals for research and teaching purposes. Appropriate protocols involved in housing, husbandry, and health management of experimental animals, in consonance to DA's A.O. No. 40, Series of 1999 (Rules and Regulations on the Conduct of Scientific Procedures using Animals), pursuant to R.A. No. 8485, otherwise known as the 'Animal Welfare Act of 1998' are paramount in any research undertakings and/or teaching demonstrations.

The institutional Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) was designed to ensure scientific/societal value in all animal research projects and teaching activities where appropriate animal ethics and welfare standards are assured and maintained. Thus, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) was created serving the interest of the institution and should complement the goals of animal researchers and/or teachers whose aim is quality research and teaching performance without compromising the well-being of experimental animals.

This document lays down the ACUP of the Visayas state University which will serve as the basis of the operation of the IACUC in evaluating and approving animal protocols following the principles of self-regulation by the institution. The goal is to foster a culture of excellence in animal-based testing and teaching activities, and trust between the personnel on protocol along with those involved directly or indirectly in the project undertakings.