1. Background

The Principal Investigator is the individual with primary responsibility for a project that includes the design and implementation of research, teaching, or other activities involving the use of animals.

Due to the level of accountability and responsibility involved in conducting work with live vertebrate animals, the Texas A&M University-Commerce Institutional Animal Care and Use (IACUC) policy mirrors the PI eligibility policy outlined by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, but recognizes that in certain minimal risk research, teaching, outreach, or other activities, the role of PI may be appropriate for individuals with other University appointments.

2. Procedure

a. Ordinarily, only full-time faculty and senior research appointees may serve as Principal Investigators on IACUC protocols. These include the following titles:

- Tenured Faculty
- Tenure-Track Faculty
- Professional Track Faculty
- Clinical Track Faculty
- Post-Doctoral Researcher (if appointment is long enough)
- Visiting Scholar/Professor (if appointment is long enough)
- Visiting Scientist (if appointment is long enough)
- Research Scientist (if appointment is long enough)

b. In addition to individuals with the titles listed above, the IACUC will consider individuals with the following titles to be eligible to serve as the Principal Investigator on an animal care and use protocol. These types of protocols are primarily for teaching, demonstration, and other minimal risk research or other animal use activities (USDA Pain Category C or less). Individuals seeking to be the PI on a higher risk protocol (USDA Pain Category D or E) will require the co-signature of a person occupying one of the roles above in 2a, approval by the IACUC Chair, and approval by the Attending Veterinarian or designee.

- Lecturer/Senior Lecturer
- Instructor
- Clinical Instructor

c. Emeritus faculty or faculty with Visiting, Adjunct, Ad-Interim, Part-time, Courtesy, or other appointments, will ordinarily not be permitted to serve as a PI on an animal use protocol. A&M-Commerce full-time staff may serve as Project Directors on non-academic projects. Other requests to manage an animal use activity on campus will be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the proposed animal activities and the rationale for the request.
History:

Version 01 - Petra Collyer, Arlene Horne
Initial Approval: October 8, 2015