Purpose:
The purpose of this ACUP is to describe the primary clinical veterinary care requirements for TAMUC-owned animals and non-TAMUC-owned animals on university property.

Policy:
The Attending Veterinarian (AV) is responsible for the veterinary care program for A&M Commerce-owned animals and non-A&M Commerce-owned animals on university property. The clinical veterinary care responsibility is delegated to clinical veterinarians and veterinary technologists who are employed by A&M Commerce or have been specifically screened and approved to treat animals on university property by the AV.

c. The arrangement must be formalized in a written Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the external veterinarian and the AV. The AV’s permission must be filed and retrievable from the Office of Research Compliance.

Responsible:
Animal Health Professionals not employed by A&M Commerce, facility managers and supervisors, AV

Procedures:
a. Upon request by the facility manager or animal owner, each veterinarian/ veterinary group/ species expert wishing to provide primary clinical care of university-owned animals and privately-owned animals on university property must submit a request to the AV, including justification for the request and other details specified in APPENDIX 1.
b. If the AV approves the request, the AV will provide a Letter of Agreement, which must include the following:
   • Requirement of and mechanism for direct communication between the primary clinical veterinarian (s)/species expert and the AV. The mechanism must ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the AV and his designee(s) on problems associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being, and may include other factors as routinely deemed appropriate by the AV.
   • Confirmation that each veterinarian/species expert on the LOA has completed the appropriate regulatory training as required by the IACUC as to be determined.
   • Requirements and responsibility for maintaining complete and timely medical records as specified by the AV.
c. Prompt animal care must be provided when directed by the AV, and supplementary reports provided if requested by the AV and/ or IACUC.
d. Where there are concerns about animal welfare or imminent danger to animals or human health, the AV must be notified first in all cases. In cases of AV non-availability, an approved designated non-A&M Commerce veterinarian may be called, while further attempts to reach the AV must continue.
e. The LOA is valid for 1 year, with annual renewal, unless otherwise specified by the AV.
f. The AV reserves the right to revoke the LOA if there are violation of the terms and requirements of the LOA.
g. The clinical care arrangement, including the names of the approved veterinarians, specialists and animal health professionals, is retrievable at the Office or Research and Sponsored Programs.
3. Regulatory Guidelines
a. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (ILAR, 2011) [the Guide] (Ch. 4 “Veterinary Care”, page 106) “The veterinary care program is the responsibility of the Attending Veterinarian, who is certified or has training or experience in laboratory animal science and medicine or is otherwise qualified in the care of the species being used. Some aspects of the veterinary care program can be conducted by persons other than a veterinarian, but a mechanism for direct and frequent communication should be established to ensure that timely and accurate information is conveyed to the responsible veterinarian about issues associated with animal health, behavior, and well-being, and appropriate treatment or euthanasia is administered.”
b. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations
USDA/APHIS
2.33(a)(2) “Each research facility shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary and oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.”
c. USDA Policy #3 Veterinary Care
d. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 3rd edition (FASS, Jan 2010) [the Ag Guide]

History:
Version 00 – Petra Collyer
Initial Approval: Nov 11 2015

Appendix 1
REQUEST FOR VETERINARIAN/SPECIES EXPERT TO PROVIDE PRIMARY CLINICAL CARE

To the Attending Veterinarian (AV):

I am/ we are requesting permission to provide primary clinical care for the following:

Species:

Protocol Number (if applicable):

Location/ facility:

Reason for request (e.g., species expertise, distant physical location):

Names, contact information for each person covered by this request:

Request: APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
Reviewed by (AV or designee): ________________________________ Date: _________