POLICY
When animals are no longer appropriate for use in research, testing, or teaching they may upon request be eligible for adoption. This policy will be administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) / University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Adoption Subcommittee (AS). In every circumstance UNMC/UNO will adhere to all animal use laws, rules, regulation, and guidelines including those described in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy, the Guide, AAALAC International, and state and local laws.

REGULATION
The PHS Policy, the Guide and the Animal Welfare Act are silent on the issue of private adoption of research animals for pets after a study has been completed and the animals are no longer required. The 9 CFR recordkeeping regulations and official policies offer institutions the option of developing and implementing an adoption policy. OLAW is supportive of the concept of adoption but reminds institutions that NIH grant funds may not be used to support the cost of the program. The PHS will not assume legal or financial responsibility for any adoption program or any results of adoption. (OLAW Frequently Asked Questions)

PROCEDURE
1.0 To be eligible under this policy, the animal:
   1.1 Must not be actively involved in an IACUC approved animal protocol at the time of the disposition through adoption request.
   1.2 Must not have signs of compromised health, either natural or experimentally derived, that would impair its ability to thrive.
   1.3 Must not have any known behavioral or temperamental problems that would compromise its ability to serve as a companion pet.

2.0 A Request to Adopt a Research Animal (Schedule A sections 1-3) must be completed by the Principal Investigator (PI) of the related protocol, individual(s) seeking approval to adopt the animal and the Attending Veterinarian (AV)/designee who has examined and evaluated the animal.
   2.1 The PI will complete and sign section 1, which includes animal information.
   2.2 The individual seeking approval to adopt will complete and sign section 2, which includes personal information, and current pet information.
   2.3 The AV/designee will complete and sign section 3, which includes a report of the animal's physical and mental health status, and recommendation on adoptability.

3.0 The Request to Adopt a Research Animal (Schedule A, sections 1-3) will be reviewed by an IACUC Adoption Subcommittee (IAS) comprised at a minimum of; Executive Chair, Veterinarian, unaffiliated nonscientific member, and 1-2 additional IACUC members.

4.0 The IAS in conjunction with the Institutional Official (IO) will make a final decision to approve or deny the adoption request.
   4.1 Results of the IAS adoption decision will be placed on the Agenda as a notification item for the next full committee meeting.

5.0 If the request is denied the PI may appeal the adoption to the IACUC Full Committee.
5.1 The IO may overturn an IACUC approval, but may not overturn an IACUC disapproval following appeal.

6.0 Adoptions approved by the IAS will require An Animal Adoption Agreement and Release form (Schedule B) to be completed by UNMC CM or UNO ACAB veterinarian(s) (including indemnity provisions).

7.0 The following conditions included in the Animal Adoption Agreement and Release form must be met by individual(s) approved to adopt an animal:
7.1 Agree not to use the animal as a food source.
7.2 Agree to care for the animal in a manner generally accepted as appropriate for a companion pet of the species.
7.3 Agree with the UNMC or UNO veterinarian’s assessment of the animal’s health at the time of transfer.
7.4 Agree to accept the animal for use as a pet, with no intent to re-sell.
7.5 Agree that in the case of unforeseen circumstances that would deem the animal unacceptable as a pet or the new owner is unable to care for the pet; every attempt should be made to contact the UNMC/UNO IACUC to discuss possible alternatives.

8.0 The Animal Adoption Agreement and Release form must be executed by the Executive Chair, Attending Veterinarian (AV), Primary Investigator, IO/designee, and the new owner.
8.1 Copies of the IAS committee results and all related documentation including the “Request to Adopt a Research Animal” (Schedule A) and the “Animal Adoption Agreement and Release form (Schedule B) will be filed with the related IACUC protocol.

9.0 Clinical care required prior to removing the adopted animal from UNMC or UNO facilities (Performed by UNMC or UNO veterinarians) will include:
9.1 All species: Negative fecal, normal physical examination, no evidence of disease, appropriate vaccinations as applicable to the species.
9.2 Dogs and Cats: Neutered or Spayed

10.0 Applicable charges may apply for veterinary procedures if necessary to meet adoption requirements as listed in 9.0.

11.0 NIH grant funds may not be used to support the cost of the adoption program.

12.0 Attachments:
12.1 Schedule A Request to Adopt a Research Animal
12.2 Schedule B Animal Adoption Agreement and Release

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL:
Ernest D. Prentice, PhD.  Institutional Official Alternate
James Turpen, PhD.  Executive Chair, IACUC