IACUC POLICY # 20
IACUC Policy on Nonhuman Primates

Nonhuman primates have been and will continue to be very valuable animal models in biomedical research. For some types of research viable alternatives to the use of nonhuman primates are not available. It is clear, however, that the use of nonhuman primates presents many serious problems for animal health and well being, management of the animals, and health risks to the researchers and animal care staff. The use of nonhuman primates, especially Old World primates requires specialized housing and facilities, intense, continual training of staff, and well organized support staff providing medical surveillance and treatment, hazard assessment, and security. The animal facilities at U.S.C. do not routinely include housing and programs for use of nonhuman primates.

The IACUC strongly encourages investigators who require nonhuman primates for their research to conduct the animal work in specialized primate facilities such as those in the National Institutes of Health Regional Primate Research Centers or university primate research centers. The IACUC and the University Veterinarian will assist the investigator with locating and evaluating the sites, reviewing the animal use programs, and developing protocols and contracts.

If the research cannot be conducted at an off campus site, the investigator is responsible for coordinating his needs with the IACUC and Animal Resources Facilities. The investigator is responsible for assuring that funding for specialized caging, necessary training of personnel, occupational health surveillance of personnel, and other costs associated with establishing a primate colony are available. The IACUC will assist the investigator and may recommend suitable consultants for developing programs and procedures.

No nonhuman primates will be brought into U.S.C. animal facilities until a complete program for primate care and use is in place and has been coordinated with all the involved University elements including Health and Safety Programs, University Specialty Clinics, U.S.C. Police, and Media Relations.