PURPOSE
To define the authority and responsibilities of a Principal Investigator (PI) engaged in scientific research or teaching endeavors using animals at the University of Colorado Boulder (UCB). Federal regulation and PHS Policy require that each research institution establish a process for management and oversight of animal care and use activities. UCB identifies the PI as the individual who is responsible for all animal work performed in their laboratory and under their approved animal use protocol. They are ultimately responsible for ensuring that animal work is conducted in accordance with their protocol, personnel are adequately and appropriately trained including enrollment in the occupational health program, and following all institutional policies and procedures. PIs on an animal protocol must complete IACUC Training to ensure they are advised on institutional expectations for animal care and use.

POLICY
A PI must be designated on all animal protocols. The positions in the left column of the Office of Contracts and Grants UCB “Principal Investigator Eligibility” document dated January 2011 are eligible to serve as PI on an animal protocol.

In rare cases exceptions may be granted with prior approval by the faculty sponsor and the IACUC Chair or designee and in accordance with OCG’s Guidelines listed above. When a faculty member is not the PI on the protocol, she or he will be the co-investigator and ultimately responsible for the project.

All other positions or titles, including students and short-term post-docs, would not be eligible to be PI, but could be a co-investigator on an animal protocol. In the case where a co-investigator is designated, all correspondence will be sent to the PI as well as the co-investigator. The PI is responsible to the UCB and the IACUC for all activities and obligations involving the use of animals in research. The PI assumes responsibility for the project, and can continue the project if the co-investigator leaves the project or University.

REGARDING GRANTS:
The PI on a grant can be listed as the co-investigator on a protocol if they do not meet the definition of PI for an animal protocol. If a grant agency requires an individual who is not normally eligible to be PI on a protocol based on the policy above, exceptions can be granted.

The UCB IACUC views the responsibilities shared between the PI and co-investigator as a valuable learning experience for the co-investigator. However, the PI, as stated above, is the individual ultimately responsible to UCB and the IACUC for all activities and obligations involving the use of vertebrate animals.