



**TITLE: Animal Holding Protocol**

**Purpose:** Federal regulations require the IACUC to review and approve all activities involving the use of live vertebrate animals; all animals intended for use in research, testing, and teaching or for related purposes must be housed under an active and approved IACUC protocol at all times. Occasionally, situations occur where protocols become inactive (e.g., protocol expiration, suspension, termination; permit expiration), but animals remain in the institutional animal facilities. In order to avoid euthanasia of valuable research animals, and to remain in compliance with regulatory requirements, the IACUC allows transfer of animals to the so-called Holding Protocol for a maximum of 30 days.

**PROCEDURE:** During the 30 days, investigators must take the necessary actions to gain re-approval of their Animal Use Protocol in order to avoid forfeiture of their animals. The IACUC will consider other circumstances for the housing animals on the Holding Protocol on a case-by-case basis (e.g., transfer of new FIT faculty from other institutions). Requests to use the Holding Protocol must be reviewed by the Animal Welfare Program Manager and routed to the IACUC for final approval.

While animals are housed on the Holding Protocol, the following conditions apply:

**Housing Only:** The use of the Holding Protocol is limited to animal housing. No experimental manipulations or harvest of tissue are allowed.

**Restricted Access:** Animals housed under the Holding Protocol are completely off limits to investigators. The IACUC notifies the Primary Investigator and all research personnel on the protocol (via e-mail) when animals are transferred to the Holding Protocol. Any use of animals housed under the Holding Protocol will be treated as serious regulatory non-compliance.

**Cage/tank Labeling:** Animal cage cards are clearly marked with a Holding Protocol number.

**Animal Care:** Animal facility managers and their assistants will assume responsibility for the animals and will provide routine husbandry and veterinary care as needed. *NOTE: Federal funds (e.g. NSF grant funds) may not be used to pay for costs associated with animal research in the absence of an approved IACUC protocol.*

**Animal Welfare:** Medical treatment and/or euthanasia will be performed by, and at the discretion of, animal facility managers, Animal Welfare Program Manager, and the attending veterinarian.

**Reinstatement:** When protocols are reinstated or approved, animals will be transferred from the Holding Protocol to the approved protocol.

**30 Day Limit:** At the end of 1 month, the IACUC in consultation with the Institutional Official (IO) will determine the disposition of the animals. Animals remaining at the end of 30 days will be euthanized, made available for approved adoption, or transferred to another approved protocol unless an extension is granted. When applicable, failure to correct noncompliance at the end of the 30 days will result in protocol termination.

**Approved by the IACUC 29 June 2015 Author(s): S. Emer, C. Bashur**

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