



TITLE: Laboratory Housing of Animals

Purpose: For experimental reasons, research animals are sometimes housed outside of dedicated animal housing space within a vivarium, within a researcher's laboratory or a teaching laboratory. For example, animals may need to be exposed to certain environmental conditions that cannot be provided within the vivarium, such as warm or cool temperatures. This procedure addresses requirements for nonvivarium housing of animals, for which investigative TAs or students provide some or all husbandry.

PROCEDURE: Housing of animals outside a dedicated vivarium for greater than 12 hours requires IACUC approval. Such housing cannot exceed 24 hours, must be based on clearly defined needs, and must be described in an IACUC-approved animal care and use protocol. Such housing will be approved only for scientific reasons, or urgent and/or intensive medical needs of the animals that cannot be accommodated within dedicated animal facilities. The protocol must also contain details of husbandry practices and the suitability of the laboratory environment for housing animals (e.g., adequate ventilation, light-dark cycle).

Requirements for housing animals in a laboratory include:

- Minimum of semiannual Inspections of facilities by the IACUC or its designee before animals are housed there.
- Training of laboratory TAs or students by the Animal Welfare Program Manager in appropriate husbandry practices for the species being housed, including proper documentation of husbandry procedures.
- Proper storage of feed and water.
- Weekend and holiday care plans (unless protocol states that laboratory animal housing will not be used during these times), including familiarity with sick animal reporting methods.
- Waste management procedures, especially if animals are exposed to potentially dangerous chemicals.
- Notification to animal care staff when animals are moved to laboratory housing.
- Lab manager monitoring of husbandry documentation and health of animals at least monthly for laboratories that house animals for more than 48 consecutive hours.

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Author(s): S. Emer, C. Bashur