



**TITLE: Primary Enclosure Labeling Requirements**

**Purpose:** To allow for timely and unambiguous identification of research animals, cage/tank cards are used to convey important information amongst researcher, veterinary, and animal care staff. The FIT IACUC follows the recommendations as outlined in the 8th ed. of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* in regard to what information is to be included on the ID cards.

**PROCEDURE:** To ensure that communication is open and that animals receive appropriate and timely care, the following information is **required** on an animal ID card:

- Name of the responsible investigator
- Current name(s) and contact information for research personnel in case of emergency
- Approved protocol number

The following additional information is **strongly recommended** to be included on the cage card:

- Pertinent dates (date of birth, date of arrival)
- Source of the animal (e.g., name of commercial vendor or institution, capture location)
- Species, strain or stock of animal (if known and applicable)
- Health/behavioral status of the animal
- Treatments an animal received
- Any biohazards, toxic substances, or radioactivity the animal has been exposed to

A card must be placed on all primary enclosures, including tanks housing fish groups, cages housing rodent groups, and cages/tanks housing individuals.

For animals lacking a permanent physical identification (i.e., tattoo), a method must be in place and readily accessible to vets and husbandry staff for linking these animals to their identifying information and records (e.g., description of individual animals). Investigators/animal managers may develop any style of ID card as long as the above information is provided on the card. Card templates are available from the Animal Welfare Program Manager.

Unidentified animals will be transferred to an established holding protocol.

**Reference:** *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th ed.

**Approved by the IACUC 14 July 2015**

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