

Policy on Housing Animals Outside of Previously Approved Housing Facilities

This document establishes the policy of the IACUC regarding the housing of research animals outside of previously approved housing facilities and pertains only to University of Kentucky research animals housed in University of Kentucky owned or controlled facilities.

Policy

An investigator may request housing of research animals in a laboratory or other facility (not previously approved by the IACUC as a designated animal housing facility) in cases where such housing is essential for the conduct of the research or humane care of the animals. Due to the potential health risks and the additional oversight responsibilities placed upon the University, the burden of proof regarding the necessity for housing animals outside of the approved animal facilities is required to be provided by the requestor.

This justification must be based on documented scientific needs or humane animal care which cannot be met in an approved animal housing facility. The convenience of the investigator or laboratory staff is not an acceptable justification.

It is the responsibility of the IACUC to carefully review these requests and approve only those instances where the scientific goals or adequate animal care cannot be accomplished without such an exception. If such housing is approved by the IACUC, this document establishes the standard of care that is acceptable to and required by the University of Kentucky IACUC.

Definitions

Animal Housing Facilities (AHFs) are areas maintained by the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR), by Colleges, or by Departments. The AHFs may house classical laboratory animals (rodents, rabbits, dogs, cats, etc.), typical agricultural species, avians, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. The respective Director, Dean, or Chairperson retains responsibility for the AHF though operational oversight **although** management may be delegated to other named individuals. Application for an AHF must be made to the IACUC using a standard form available from the Office of the Attending Veterinarian.

Temporary Study-Specific Housing (TSSH) Facilities are areas that are generally small and house a single species. Additionally, animals are typically housed in TSSH facilities for a limited duration of time and the facilities are not continuously used to house animals. TSSH facilities are established through IACUC approval of an animal use protocol requesting the establishment or use of such a facility. Application for a TSSH facility must be made to the IACUC using a standard form available from the Office of the Attending Veterinarian.

General Requirements

Adequate veterinary care must be provided.

Environmental conditions that meet or exceed those typical of a centrally managed animal housing facility must be ensured.

Personnel caring for animals must be appropriately trained. Formal or on-the job task-specific training must be provided and documented. Additionally, all personnel must complete the required IACUC training.

An Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) must be part of the overall animal care and use program. The program should focus on maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. Operational and day-to-day responsibility for safety in the workplace resides with the laboratory or facility supervisor.

Animal Environment, Housing, and Management to prevent, control, or eliminate pests are an essential part of a proper animal environment.

Research animal facilities shall be, at a minimum, securely locked to prevent unauthorized entry.

PIs with satellite animal facilities where hazardous agents are used should contact UK Crisis Management and Preparedness (<http://www.uky.edu/EM/hazardous-material-emergency.html>) to discuss specific emergency response needs.

Daily observation by research staff must be documented and include the following: appearance of the animals, confirmation of adequate food and water, lights, temperature, and humidity (if indoors) as is appropriate for the species and experimental goals. Properly maintained records of daily observations will be verified by the IACUC.

References

1. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 2011.
2. *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, 2002.
3. *Animal Welfare Act*, United States Code, Title 7, Chapter 54
4. *Animal Welfare Regulations*, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Parts 1-4.
5. *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*, Federation of Animal Science Societies, Illinois, 2010.

Approved and Adopted by the
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
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