

Animal Care and Use Program Policies & Procedures

Environmental Enhancement to promote psychological well-being of Non-human Primates



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- I. **BACKGROUND:** Required by Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Animal Welfare; Standards; Final Rule, published in the Federal Register, February 15, 1991. Required by the 8th Edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.
- II. **SCOPE:** This policy applies to all Non-Human Primates at OHSU facilities.
- III. **POLICY:** OHSU IACUC's plan for the environmental enhancement of primates is as follows:
 1. Primates should be housed in social groupings whenever possible. Pair housing is the minimum goal. Primates may be exempted due to behavioral, health, or IACUC approved scientific protocol considerations. Such exemptions shall be documented in the animal's records.
 2. Primates shall be provided with various forms of enrichment, including but not limited to foraging devices, toys, cage furniture (perches for caged animals, swings and climbing structures for group housed animals), television and radio in their primary housing enclosure, unless exempted for medical, behavioral or IACUC approved research protocol reasons.
 3. Primates will not be maintained in restraint devices unless required for health reasons, or as approved by the IACUC for scientific reasons. The restraint shall be the minimum necessary, not to exceed 4 hours.

Primate protocols will be evaluated during the yearly renewal process for compliance to the above goals. If exemptions are sought for research protocol reasons, the IACUC will evaluate the scientific justification provided, and allow exemption only if the justification is sufficient. All new primate protocols will be reviewed by the IACUC for compliance with this policy. Exemptions for health or behavioral reasons must be approved by the attending veterinarian, and reviewed at least monthly.

- IV. **REFERENCE:** ONPRC Non-Human Primate Behavioral Management Plan, 2011. (available at OHSU(X:)WEST/ONPRC/IACUC Protocols/NHP Behavior Plan2011)
- V. **AUTHORITY: Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Ed 2011 p 51.** An appropriate housing space or enclosure should also account for the animals' social needs. Social animals should be housed in stable pairs or groups of compatible individuals unless they must be housed alone for experimental reasons or because of social incompatibility. Structural adjustments are frequently required for social housing (e.g., perches, visual barriers, refuges), and important resources (e.g., food, water, and shelter) should be provided in such a way that they cannot be monopolized by dominant animals. **p 58** Like all social animals, nonhuman primates should normally have social housing (i.e., in compatible pairs or in larger groups of compatible animals). **p 81** Single housing of social species should be the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being. In these cases, it should be limited to the minimum period necessary, and where possible, visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile contact with compatible conspecifics should be provided. In the absence of other animals, enrichment should be offered such as positive interaction with the animal care staff and additional enrichment items or

addition of a companion animal in the room or housing area. The need for single housing should be reviewed on a regular basis by the IACUC and veterinarian.

USDA Animal Care Resource Guide 12.o. A nonhuman primate must have adequate environmental enhancement to promote psychological well-being which is outlined in an appropriate plan. A research facility must develop, document and follow an environmental enhancement plan for its nonhuman primates. The environmental enhancement plan must be: in writing, in accordance with the currently accepted professional standards as cited in the appropriate professional journals or reference guides, directed and approved by the attending veterinarian, available for review by APHIS officials and officials of any pertinent funding agency. The environmental enhancement plan must address the following: social housing, environmental enrichment, special considerations, restraint devices and exemptions.