Background
The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals indicates that dogs can be given opportunities for activity by having access to a run, or being moved into areas for social contact, play, or exploration.

Policy
Dogs housed individually - Dogs over 12 weeks of age, except bitches with litters, must be provided a regular opportunity for exercise if they are housed individually in enclosures that provide less than two times the floor space that is required in the Animal Welfare Act Regulations.

Dogs housed in groups - Dogs over 12 weeks of age maintained in groups do not require additional opportunity for exercise if they are maintained in enclosures that provide at least 100% of the required minimum floor space for each dog if maintained separately. These dogs may be maintained in compatible groups unless:
1. Housing in compatible groups is not in accordance with the OHSU IACUC approved research protocol;
2. Such housing would adversely affect the health or well-being of the dogs in the opinion of the attending veterinarian; or,
3. Any dog exhibits aggressive behavior.

Methods and period of providing exercise opportunity - Dogs over 12 weeks of age housed individually in enclosures that provide less than two times the required floor space per dog will be provided additional opportunities for exercise at least 3 times per week. Exercise periods shall total at least sixty minutes. During the exercise period, dogs will be removed from their cages and released into an enclosure that is at least 48 square feet. When possible, several compatible dogs of the same sex from the same room will be released together to facilitate social interaction. During the exercise period, one or more persons will observe and interact with the dogs. This will facilitate socialization with humans and minimize conflict between incompatible dogs. To minimize disease transmission, the exercise area will be hosed, cleaned, and sanitized between uses by animals from separate rooms.

Exemptions - If, in the opinion of the attending veterinarian, it is inappropriate for certain dogs to exercise because of their health condition or well-being, such dogs may be exempted from the exercise requirement. Such exemptions must be documented by the attending veterinarian and reviewed at least every 30 days unless the basis for the exemption is a permanent condition. Additionally, dogs may be exempted from the exercise requirement if the principal investigator determines for scientific reasons as presented in the IACUC protocol that it is inappropriate for certain dogs to exercise. The exemption must be documented in the OHSU Animal Usage Protocol From and approved by the IACUC on an annual basis. Records of any exemptions must be maintained and made available to USDA officials or any Federal funding agency upon request.

Authority
The requirement for the exercise of dogs is set forth under section 13(a)(2)(B) of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (7 U.S.C., 2143). The standards for the exercise of dogs are set forth in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 1, Subchapter A - Animal Welfare, Part 3, Section 3.8. The requirements of the AWA are set forth under the Regulations and Standards in the CFR. These requirements are found in Title 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A
- Animal Welfare, Parts 1, 2, and 3. Section numbers are given for reference to the actual wording of each requirement.