

## Animal Care and Use Program Policy



### *Animal Use in Laboratories Outside of the Vivarium*

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### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the AWA, PHS Policy and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide), that emphasize the appropriate use of vertebrate animals in research, including the proper physical environment to assure their well-being and safety, the OHSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has adopted the following policy regarding the care and use of animals in laboratories outside the vivarium.

### **POLICY**

IACUC approval is required for all animal use that occurs outside the vivarium. Scientific justification is required for animal use outside of the vivarium which lasts greater than 8 hours. With the exception of areas that may be approved administratively (described below under Short-term Animal Use Outside the Vivarium), areas in which animals will be used outside of the vivarium must be inspected by the IACUC or designees prior to approval. The IACUC will inspect all approved areas of use every six months as part of its semi-annual review of animal facilities (the vivarium) and areas outside of the vivarium (laboratories) where live animals are taken. IACUC approval for animals that will return to the vivarium is contingent upon DCM's ability to accommodate 'returning' animals.

### **PROCEDURES**

- I. **Short-term Animal Use Outside the Vivarium (<8 hours):** All animal use areas outside the vivarium must be approved by the IACUC, inspected by the IACUC or designees of the IACUC, and listed on the IACUC protocol. Short term animal use areas may be added to a protocol by administrative approval assuming animals will not return to the DCM housing facility. Inspection of such areas will occur within 30 days of protocol modification. IACUC inspections of short term (<8 hours) animal use areas will occur semi-annually as part of the IACUC program review process, or anytime at the IACUC's discretion. The following standards must be met when animals are taken to short term animal use areas outside of the vivarium:
  - A. Animal use areas in the laboratory should be designated by signage stating that animals are used in the area.
  - B. The animal use area should be separate from other activities and must be clean and uncluttered. It is strongly recommended that the animal use area be in a room that is locked, or not visible to the public and non research personnel.
  - C. All surfaces used for work with animals must be sanitizable, i.e., must be smooth and sealed with the ability to be sanitized between groups of animals. No storage of non-essential equipment is allowed in the area. Items over and around the workspace must be contained and secured.
  - D. If volatile anesthetics are used, they should be used in a fume hood, or with proper gas scavenging equipment in operation.
  - E. At least one lab member listed on the IACUC protocol should be available to periodically monitor the animals during each stay in the laboratory.

**II. Extended Procedures in Laboratories (8-24 hours):** Any area outside the vivarium used for animal procedures which last from 8-24 hours must be scientifically justified and approved by the IACUC. The research area where the animals are taken for such periods must meet all the standards listed under Short-term Animal Use Outside the Vivarium (above). The following requirements also apply when extended animal procedures are conducted outside the vivarium:

- A. The reason for the extended stay should be clearly stated and scientifically justified in the IACUC protocol.
- B. Each area to be used for extended animal procedures outside the vivarium requires prior inspection by a member of the IACUC and the Attending Veterinarian (or designee) to determine if the area meets the standards of the Guide, and, if applicable, AWA regulations.
- C. If animals must be left unattended for any duration in the animal procedure area outside the vivarium, this must be clearly stated and justified in the approved IACUC protocol.
- D. Arrangements must be made by the investigative staff to obtain cages, provide food, water, and health checks, and to implement a documented monitoring plan.

**III. Housing or Use of Animals Outside the Vivarium (>24 hours):** All requirements listed above for Extended Procedures in Laboratories must be met when housing animals outside the vivarium for 24 hours or longer. In addition:

- A. The area must be dedicated for animal housing and related animal procedures. Unrelated equipment and activities are not allowed in the area.
- B. The animal housing area, caging, bedding, feed, water, and all other husbandry and environmental conditions must meet the standards of the Guide and assure the health and well-being of the animals. The IACUC may approve exceptions to the standards of the Guide based upon justification provided in the animal use protocol.
- C. Environmental parameters must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to housing animals in the long-term housing area. These parameters include lighting, temperature, humidity, air exchange rates, vermin control, and security to limit access only to authorized personnel.
- D. Cleaning and sanitization of work surfaces and caging, and all husbandry procedures (e.g., bedding changes; feeding; watering; etc.) must occur as per DCM standard operating procedures unless an exception is granted by the IACUC and documented in the animal use protocol. Accomplishment of husbandry procedures, along with room temperature and humidity readings, must be documented daily on a log sheet that is accessible by DCM personnel and the IACUC.
- E. Animals must be observed on a daily basis including weekends and holidays. Daily observation of animals must be documented on a log sheet that is accessible by DCM personnel and the IACUC.

#### **AUTHORITY**

PHS POLICY GUIDING PRINCIPLE VII:

The living conditions of animals should be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. Normally, the housing, feeding, and care of all animals used for biomedical purposes must be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied. In any case, veterinary care shall be provided as indicated.

#### **REFERENCES**

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2011, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, pg 134.)

Animals should be housed in facilities dedicated to or assigned for that purpose, not in laboratories merely for convenience. If animals must be maintained in a laboratory to satisfy the scientific aims of a protocol, that space should be appropriate to house and care for the animals and its use limited to the period during which it is required. If needed, measures should be taken to minimize occupational hazards related to exposure to animals both in the research area and during transport to and from the area.