



Animal Housing and/or Study Areas

305.1 Policy

In order to ensure the best occupational health and safety conditions, promote optimal biosecurity for animal colonies, and to minimize experimental variables relative to the environment, unless otherwise permitted by the Emory IACUC, animals are required to be housed or studied within the confines of facilities maintained by Emory University Animal Resources programs.

The Emory IACUC acknowledges that due to, special equipment needs, highly-specific research requirements, and other factors, that it may not always be possible or practical to house or conduct investigations using animals within the confines of Emory's animal research facilities.

All animal housing and study areas must meet relevant physical plant performance standards as described in the National Research Council's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*; and where exceptions are granted for housing animals outside of Emory's animal housing facilities, the requirements listed in section II of this policy must be met.

As a general rule, animal housing and activity areas in laboratories must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC before use. Depending upon the nature of use, the IACUC-related process may involve an inspection and evaluation of the site for cataloging and assessment purposes in combination with the review of pertinent information associated with the animal use protocol.

The requirements for housing apply if:

- USDA animals, either as a cohort or due to overlapping transfer, are held for greater than 12 hours outside of an animal research facility
- Non-USDA regulated animals¹, either as a cohort or due to overlapping transfer, are held for greater than 24 hours.

305.2 Housing Animals Outside of Animal Resource Facilities

305.2.1 Requirements

305.2.1.1 When the animal resources group is not conducting the husbandry, an SOP for animal husbandry must be written to meet the conditions of Emory's OLAW Assurance and finalized with guidance from the appropriate animal resources program. The SOP must be reviewed and approved by the Emory IACUC. The SOP must address the subjects of training of personnel in safe and proper animal care practices, occupational health and safety, disaster planning and emergency preparedness, and veterinary care and oversight of the husbandry program by animal resources management in compliance with Chapter 2 of the *Guide*; environmental control and monitoring, ventilation, air quality, illumination, noise and vibration prevention, food and drinking water, bedding and enrichment

materials, cage and room sanitation, methods used to assess the effectiveness of sanitation programs, waste management, pest monitoring and control, emergency, weekend and holiday care, and recordkeeping practices as stipulated in Chapter 3 of the *Guide*; and attributes of the facility is detailed in *Guide* Chapter 5 including architectural features, storage and security.

305.2.1.2 The PI must ensure that a qualified engineering consultation is obtained to verify that the HVAC system for the proposed animal housing area operates to reliably provide negative differential air pressure and is supplied by 10-15 air changes per hour (ACPH). Engineering services likewise must provide assurance that the HVAC system will perform at a level to meet the *current Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)* standards for temperature and relative humidity control and with terminal reheat coils that fail either in place or closed. Backup services must be described to cover for any unexpected loss of power for environmental control.

305.2.1.3 The PI must ensure that appropriate temperature and relative humidity monitoring is installed with default reporting to the appropriate animal resources program. Photoperiod control and monitoring technology must be installed that will meet the specifications of the regulations for animal housing rooms. The installation and maintenance of these systems and first response to alarms will be the responsibility of the PI.

305.2.1.4 Room organization, space allocation, and storage must be consistent with an animal housing facility as described in the *Guide*. Animal housing rooms cannot be used for other storage while being used for animal housing.

305.2.1.5 Animal housing must be species specific unless otherwise approved by the IACUC.

305.2.1.6 The IACUC and veterinary staff must have access to the areas at all times. The IACUC will determine the best means of assuring proper access for the necessary personnel.¹ The methods that could be required may include installation of a lock on the room entry door controlled by a card key reader, or a keyed lock may be sufficient if approved by the IACUC.

305.2.1.7 A quarterly report documenting animal mortality overall and relative to the daily census at the laboratory housing site must be submitted to the IACUC. The IACUC will provide established due dates for report submission and can provide additional information as needed.

¹See 7 USC 2132 (g) for guidance on regulated versus non-regulated species. See also http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/awa/awa.pdf

305.2.1.8 Prior to approval and housing the animals, the site must pass an inspection by a subcommittee of IACUC members appointed by the Chair of the IACUC. If approved, this site will be subjected to semi-annual IACUC facility review and semi-annual IACUC program review of the SOP for this facility.

305.2.2 Recommendations

305.2.2.1 It is recommended, but not required, that cameras reporting to the appropriate animal resource program and EUPD be installed for security purposes at or near the animal room entrance.

305.3 Scientific Investigations Involving Animals in Laboratory and Equivalent Environments

305.3.1 While procedure rooms and isolation equipment, such as biosafety cabinets, within the animal facilities represent a logical, compatible and accessible extension of the research laboratory, the IACUC accepts that laboratories, by necessity, may be the optimal site for some animal study procedures.

305.3.2 In order for a laboratory to be approved by IACUC as an animal use area, the following information must be provided for review in the applicable section(s) of the protocol:

305.3.2.1 The building and room number location of the animal activity area.

305.3.2.2 A description of the procedures to be conducted in the area.

305.3.2.3 The maximum time per day that animals will be in the laboratory.

305.3.2.4 The maximum number of animals by head-count or cage-count that will be in the laboratory at any time.

305.3.2.5 A rationale as to why facilities provided by the animal resources program cannot meet the need.

305.3.2.6 A description of how animals will be transported to and from the lab (e.g., using their original cage or another container, assurance that only freight elevators will be used when vertical transportation is required, any shrouding that might be employed, etc.).

305.3.2.7 A description of how animals will be maintained in the lab (e.g., in their original cage or other enclosure) including procedures to protect the health integrity of the animals (e.g., biosafety cabinet versus open bench top), prevent unnecessary exposure of people and allow for separation of animal species where the space may be used for more than one species.

305.3.2.8 Personal protection equipment to be used by personnel when using or handling animals.

305.3.2.9 The sanitation program for surfaces and equipment at risk of contamination from animal activities.

305.3.2.10 Management and disposal practices for waste generated in association with the animal activities.

305.3.2.11 Assurance that the site to be used minimally meets key BSL1 and ABSL1 requirements as defined by the CDC in the Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, 5th edition, and including, but not necessarily limited to, inward flow of air from adjacent common areas such as corridors, no recirculation of exhaust air, appropriate alert signage, the availability of a hand-washing sink, chairs constructed of non-porous material, an integrated, effective pest management program; and maintaining a clutter-free area dedicated to the animal activity.

305.3.2.12 Where chemical, infectious or other known hazards may be used, documentation of review, approval and operating conditions from the applicable Emory safety committee or entity.

305.3.3 Approved animal study areas will be visited on a regular basis by the IACUC dependent upon the nature of use, but typically semi-annually.

305.4 Document Properties

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