IACUC Policy for Housing Animals Outside of Facilities Maintained by Emory University Animal Resources

Responsible Official: VP for Research Administration
Administering Division/Department: IACUC
Effective Date: 5/5/2010
Last Revision: 5/5/2010

I. Policy
When USDA regulated animals are held for greater than 12 hours or non-USDA regulated animals\(^1\) are held for greater than 24 hours, the animals are required to be housed in facilities maintained by Emory University Animal Resources unless otherwise permitted by the Emory IACUC. The Emory IACUC acknowledges that due to space limitations, special equipment needs and other factors, that it may not always be possible or practical to house animals within the confines of Emory’s animal research facilities. However, all animal facilities 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.

II. Housing Animals Outside of Animal Resource Facilities
A. Requirements
1) When the animal resources group is not conducting the husbandry, a 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.

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. Backup services must be described to cover for any unexpected loss of power for environmental control.

3) The PI must ensure that appropriate temperature and relative humidity monitoring is installed with default reporting to appropriated animal resources department. Photoperiod control and monitoring technology must be installed that will meet the specifications of the regulations for animal housing rooms. The maintenance of these systems will be the responsibility of the PI.

\(^1\) See 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
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.

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

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. 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.

7) A quarterly report documenting animal mortality must be submitted to the IACUC. The IACUC will provide established due dates for report submission and can provide additional information as needed.

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.

B. Recommendations
   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.

III. Applicability
This policy applies to all Emory research related animal activities that fall under the IACUC’s jurisdiction.

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IV. References

V. Revision History

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