Title: Laboratory Housing for Research Animals

I. Purpose:
To establish UC Davis requirements when housing or holding animals in Principal Investigator’s (PI’s) laboratory overnight.

II. Policy:
Research animals must be housed in approved, dedicated animal housing facilities (vivaria); they may not be housed/held in a PI’s laboratory overnight unless scientifically justified in an IACUC approved protocol or amendment. Laboratory housing is not ideal due to occupational health issues for personnel exposed to the animals. Measures should be taken to minimize occupational hazards related to exposure to animals both in the laboratory area and during transport to and from the area. Laboratories also lack optimal environmental controls (e.g., temperature, lighting). Convenience alone is not adequate justification for laboratory housing.

If animals will be returned to the vivarium after being housed in a laboratory, please ensure the animals are returned during the vivarium light cycle to minimize disruption to the light/dark cycle of all animals in the vivarium.

III. Definitions:

A. “Laboratory Housing areas” are defined as any areas that hold animals overnight in a non-vivaria space.

B. “Laboratory/Study areas” are defined as any areas that hold animals for less than 12 hours to conduct studies in a non-vivaria space.
   a. All Laboratory Housing or Laboratory/Study areas must be clearly identified in an approved Animal Care and Use Protocol and will be inspected regularly according to IACUC policy “Laboratory/Study Area Inspection Program”.

UC Davis
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

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C. “PI maintained housing areas” are defined as any areas that hold animals in a non-vivaria space and requires at least one cage change during the animals’ stay. The husbandry care for the animals is provided by the PI’s staff.
   a. PI maintained housing areas must be approved by full IACUC committee review prior to housing animals. Requests require submission of the PI-Maintained Animal Facility Request Form per IACUC policy “Guidelines for Gaining and Maintaining Approval for Principal Investigator Maintained Animal Facilities”.

IV. Procedure:

A. Principal Investigators:

To house live vertebrate animals overnight in a site other than vivaria space, the PI must specify the location in their Animal Care and Use Protocol and provide written standard operating procedures (SOPs) following the Standards of Care Policies. This will include provisions for daily observations (including weekend and holidays), provisions for food and water, cage changing procedures and intervals, veterinary care, census recording, and minimum and maximum environmental temperature recordings. Minimum and maximum environmental humidity recordings must be documented in terrestrial housing areas. Convenience is not an acceptable justification for requesting permission to house animals outside of vivaria.

The area must be inspected by the IACUC and/or the Attending Veterinarian (or delegate) prior to use.

B. Review and inspection:

It is the PI’s responsibility to assure that animal care is conducted in accordance with the approved protocol. Provisions for veterinary care must be arranged with the Attending Veterinarian (or delegate).

The IACUC and/or Attending Veterinarian (or delegate) will inspect laboratory housing areas at least twice per year.

The IACUC and Attending Veterinarian must have access to housing areas 24 hours a day. This may require providing the IACUC or CVS with a key and/or badge access to the laboratory.
C. IACUC Housing Requirements:

1. Approvals are only valid for the specific protocol, species, duration of time, space and number of animals for which the IACUC has previously reviewed and approved.
2. All personnel working with animals must participate in the Occupational Health Surveillance System. Laboratory personnel working in the same lab who are not directly involved with animal use must be informed of their risk to exposure to allergens and given the opportunity to participate in the Occupational Health Surveillance System.
3. Animals must be held under secure conditions such that they cannot escape from their enclosures or be removed from the laboratory by unauthorized individuals.
4. IACUC transportation guidelines must be adhered to while moving animals. The lab must create an SOP describing their transportation procedures and identify vehicles being used that qualify for transport.
5. Fish and amphibian housing will require special review by vivaria staff to ensure there is an adequate supply of water, drainage, and electricity for the aquaria, tank, pumps, etc. Outlets must be ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets.
6. All animals, or cages, must be clearly marked with the PI’s name and protocol number.
7. Cages or transportation boxes (clean or dirty) must not be left in public corridors.
8. All rodent cages must have micro-isolator lids to reduce potential allergens and possible transmission of rodent diseases.
9. All waste must be disposed of via proper waste stream per EH&S requirements.
10. The Attending Veterinarian (or delegate) must be contacted for concerns about animal health.
11. Documentation indicating procedures in the husbandry SOPs are performed and that the animals are checked daily.
12. Supplies (food and cages) must be available prior to housing any animals.
13. Light cycle in the laboratory must match that in the vivaria, unless otherwise indicated in the protocol and SOP.
14. Food and supplies must be appropriately stored in sealed, leak-proof, vermin-proof containers, and used within the manufacturer's guidelines of the milling date. Food must be labeled to indicate mill date or expiration date.
15. Protocol information must be posted, typically on the entrance to the room.
16. Methods for reporting Animal Care and Use Concerns must be posted.
17. Allergy warning signs must be posted when rodents are housed in the lab.
18. The housing or study area must be maintained in a clean and organized manner.
19. Daily census of animals must be maintained and recorded.
V. **Resources:**

1. ILAR, *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*  
   [http://nap.edu/12910](http://nap.edu/12910)
2. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations  
3. IACUC-04 “Laboratory/Study Area Inspection Program”  
4. “Guidelines for Gaining and Maintaining Approval for Principal Investigator Maintained Animal Facilities”  
5. “Standards of Care Program Policies”  
6. Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS)  
   [https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/occupational-health/surveillance-system](https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/occupational-health/surveillance-system)