

Procedure: IACUC-19  
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**UC Davis  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

**Title: *Laboratory Housing for Research Animals***

**I. Purpose:**

To establish UC Davis requirements when housing or holding animals in a 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 (over 12 hours) unless scientifically justified in an IACUC approved protocol or amendment. Laboratory housing must be justified due to the inability to maintain environmental controls (e.g., temperature, lighting) in these areas per the *Guide*, Animal Welfare Act (AWA), and due to the potential occupational health concerns for personnel exposed to the animals. Measures must be taken to minimize occupational hazards related to exposure to animals both in the laboratory area and during transport to and from the area. 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. Ensure that animal movement is submitted, reviewed and approved in the [Animal Tracking System](#).

**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](#)".

#### IV. Procedure:

##### A. Principal Investigator (PI):

To house live, vertebrate animals overnight within 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 includes 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 designee) prior to use.

##### B. Review and inspection:

It is the PI's responsibility to ensure that animal care is conducted in accordance with the approved protocol. All staff performing husbandry care and daily checks of animals must be trained and the training must be documented. Provisions for veterinary care must be arranged with the Attending Veterinarian (or designee).

The IACUC will inspect laboratory housing areas at least twice per year.

The IACUC and Attending Veterinarian must be provided access to housing areas 24 hours a day. This may require providing the IACUC or Campus Veterinary Services (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 that 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 laboratory who are not directly involved with animal work must be informed of their risk of

- 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 policy on "[Transporting Research and Teaching Animals](#)" must be adhered to when moving animals. The laboratory 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, and related items. Outlets must be ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets.
  6. All animals and the cages they are housed in must be clearly identified with a cage card or tag including the PI's name and protocol number per [SC-20-106 "Identification of Animals"](#).
  7. Cages or transportation boxes (clean or dirty) must not be left in public corridors.
  8. Rodent cages should 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 designee) must be contacted for concerns about animal health.
  11. Documentation must indicate that procedures in the husbandry SOPs are performed per protocol and that the animals are checked daily. Husbandry documentation must be maintained for 3 years.
  12. Supplies (food and cages) must be available prior to housing any animals.
  13. Light cycle in the laboratory must match the light cycle 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. Zoonoses information must be posted in all locations including when animals are housed in a laboratory.
  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>
2. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>
3. IACUC-04 "Laboratory/Study Area Inspection Program"  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/IACUC-04.pdf>
4. Animal Tracking System
5. <https://research.ucdavis.edu/research-support/animal-care-use/iacuc/animal-tracking-system/>
6. "Standards of Care Program Policies"
  
7. IACUC-13 "Transporting Research and Teaching Animals"  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/IACUC-13.pdf>
8. SC-20-106 "Identification of Animals"  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/SC-20-106.pdf>
9. Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS)  
<https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/occupational-health/surveillance-system>