

Procedure: IACUC-63
Date: August 21, 2025
Enabled by: EH&S
Supersedes: May 2, 2024

**UC Davis
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

Title: Escaped Rodent Policy

I. Purpose:

This policy outlines the steps to take if a rodent escapes and the individuals/authorities that need to be informed.

II. Policy:

Rodents that come into contact with the floor or unintended areas need to be placed in a separate cage to avoid contamination of other rodents.

Rodents that escape need to be reported to the proper campus authorities (listed below) to aid in recovery and any hazard reporting.

III. Procedure:

If a rodent escapes from the cage/housing area, comes into contact with the floor or unintended areas, and is retrieved: place the animal in a single cage; note home cage location, if known, on new cage card; document on home cage card that a rodent escaped and was moved; and notify the area supervisor and PI via email. If the PI is unknown, the facility manager should reach out to all PIs in that space.

If a rodent escapes and is not found, **immediate action is required:**

1. Call the vivarium supervisor, notify IACUC iacuc-staff@ucdavis.edu, CVS cvsvet@ucdavis.edu, and the PI.
2. If the escaped rodent (found or not found) is transgenic or has been treated with biologicals, include biosafety on the notification- biosafety@ucdavis.edu. Report the following information: PI on study, if the animal is transgenic, what biological material was administered to the rodent, if rodent is male or female, was it found, or is it still unaccounted for (if found, where the animal was found).

3. If the rodent has been treated with chemicals, include chemical safety on the notification- chem-safety@ucdavis.edu
4. If the escaped rodent (found or not found) has been treated with radiation, include radiation safety on the notification- radsafety@ucdavis.edu. In coordination with EH&S (Radiation Safety), a survey of the room floor may need to be conducted to evaluate possible contamination associated with the escaped rodent that was administered radioactive material.
5. **If the rodent is a USDA covered species - call IACUC as soon as possible - 530-752-2364.**
6. A live trap, obtained from the vivarium, should be placed in the area where the rodent was last seen. Ensure the trap is baited with food - suggest moist rodent chow and/or peanut butter. When set, live traps must be checked daily. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn appropriately when checking the trap. If a wild rodent is inadvertently trapped contact Facilities at 530-752-1655 to have the animal removed.
7. If the rodent is located, report it to the same individuals the missing rodent was initially reported to.
8. If the rodent is not located, additional paperwork may be required.
9. If an animal escapes during transport, please follow this procedure and the "Transporting Research and Teaching Animals" policy.

IV. Resources:

1. SC-20-103 "Pest Control Procedures"
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/SC-20-103.pdf>
2. IACUC-13 "Transporting Research and Teaching Animals"
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/IACUC-13.pdf>