

Policy: SC-20-107
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Enabled by: The Guide,
The Ag Guide
APHIS, PPM
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Title: Acquisition and Acclimatization

I. Purpose:

To establish appropriate acquisition methods and acclimation periods for newly received research and teaching animals. Per the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide), newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychological, and nutritional stabilization before their use. Experience has shown that animals that are properly acclimated do better on study and provide more consistent and relevant, reproducible data in addition to the welfare concern of coping with the stress of shipping. Acquisition of agricultural animals should be in compliance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (the Ag Guide).

II. Policy:

Research and teaching animals must be procured according to the University policy for animal acquisition as detailed in PPM 290-30. All acquisitions, except those involving agricultural animals bought at auction, are initiated through the Animal Tracking System (<https://iacuc.ucdavis.edu/protocol/AnimalTracking/index.cfm>). All departmental/facility procedures regarding animal acquisition must be followed to ensure adequate and appropriate space is available. The veterinary staff or designated animal facility staff will examine incoming animals as required by veterinary policy and operating procedures. Animal Facilities should develop local standard operating procedures for acquisition and acclimatization with their veterinary staff. Vendors and other sources must be approved by the Animal Care Program, usually by inclusion as a source in an animal care and use protocol. The use of vendors that are AAALAC accredited and produce purpose bred laboratory animals is expected. USDA covered species shall come from a registered facility and be class A animals. Exceptions to this sourcing requirement must be documented in an approved IACUC protocol. Imports of animals from other Universities or Institutions should also come from similar accredited and registered facilities and each source be listed in an approved animal care and use protocol.

III. Procedure:

When animals arrive from off campus sources: vendors, other universities, other institutions et al, they should have a resting period prior to experimental use. Terminal studies may have a shorter acclimatization period than survival, invasive or long term procedures.

Recommendations can be obtained from the Campus Veterinarians Office. Please contact

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

AnimalTransfer@ucdavis.edu or IACUC-Staff@ucdavis.edu for guidance regarding acquiring animals from non-vendor off campus sources. Generally rodents may be used on arrival for terminal procedures, but should have a 3 day acclimatization period prior to anesthesia, surgery or similarly invasive procedures.

For species covered by the USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA) a minimum of 7 days post arrival rest is required prior to any major survival manipulations. This allows for examination, post arrival testing, and processing by the veterinary staff or designated facility manager. It is the responsibility of the principle investigator to ensure the animal has been released for study prior to placing the animal on project. A minimum of 24 hours/overnight rest is required for terminal use to allow for intake exam and acceptance of the animal for study by the veterinary staff or designated facility manager.

In addition certain species may have required diagnostics that must be performed prior to study, for example Q fever testing must be completed and results reviewed by the veterinary staff prior to acceptance of pregnant sheep on study or activities involving in utero or fetal work. Wild caught rodents must be cleared of zoonotic pathogens, for example plague, LCMV or Hanta.

Animals transferred in from or acquired from other UC Davis facilities will have an acclimatization period stipulated by the veterinary staff that is species appropriate. Generally terminal use may occur on arrival to the new housing location. Please consult with your clinical veterinary service for species specific recommendations for additional rest periods for intra-campus transfers.

Non-invasive studies, for example nutrition and/or diet studies or experimental dosing may commence on arrival after acceptance for study.

USDA animal welfare act covered non rodent species must be checked in and accepted for study by the veterinary or other appointed staff prior to release for study.

Animals not arriving in good condition will be evaluated by the veterinary staff or designated facility manager prior to release for study. Animals arriving in poor condition or displaying any abnormal characteristics or any adverse effects from the travel must be reported to the veterinary staff. Additional acclimation time may be required for animals that arrive in poor condition, stressed, dehydrated or are displaying other clinical symptoms or they may be rejected and a suitable replacement requested from the vendor.

It is responsibility of the PI to ensure a pre-study exam has occurred, if required, and that the animal has been accepted for study before commencing the research activity.

Individual exceptions maybe granted by the campus/attending veterinarian or by the assigned clinical veterinarian. This veterinarian may waive the acclimatization period for experimental reasons if the animal appears in their professional opinion to be suitable for experimental use.

Study related exceptions that are more than occasional exceptions to this policy should be written into the animal use and care protocol and be scientifically justified.