Title: Husbandry Care of Camelids

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for camelids (*Camelus, Lama*, and *Vicugna* spp.).

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for camelids used in agricultural research and teaching must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*). Camelids used in biomedical research and non-standard agricultural teaching must additionally meet the requirements in the USDA Animal Welfare Regulations (*AWR*) and Public Health Service Policy (*PHS*). Deviations or exceptions must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC.

III. Procedure:

**Daily (365 days a year without exception):**

- Observe each animal and check for health concerns (*Guide* pg. 112).
- Ensure adequate feed and potable water is available (*Guide* pg. 65-68).
- Record sick and dead animals, and report them to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure for reporting sick or dead animals.
- For temperature-controlled housing, record minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity.
  - Temperature range camelids is 61°F to 81°F (*Guide* pg. 44).
  - Humidity range for camelids is 30% to 70% (*Guide* pg. 44).
- Remove excessive amounts of excrement, dirty bedding, and soiled feed (*Guide* pg. 69-71).
- Remove and replace any enrichment devices that are worn, damaged, or heavily soiled (*Guide* pg. 72)
- Clean and organize room, anterooms, and surrounding premises (*Guide* pg. 72).
- Record daily completion of tasks, initial, and date log sheet.

**As needed:**

- Disinfect the animal room including walls, floors, and ceilings (if possible) (*Guide* pg. 72).
• Remove and replace worn or damaged equipment from primary enclosures and surrounding facility (Guide pg. 72).
• Clean and sanitize feed storage containers (Guide pg. 67).

**Environmental Enrichment:**
• Refer to the Environmental Enrichment policy.
• Camelids should be provided the opportunity to demonstrate species typical behavior. Examples of enrichment for camelids include conspecifics (Guide pg. 53).
• Devices must be checked regularly for wear and discarded when safety hazards are observed.

**Facilities:**
• Temperature alarms must be installed in all temperature-controlled rooms housing camelids (Guide pg. 143).
• Adequate ventilation must be provided for the health and comfort of the animal at all times.
  o A minimum of 10-15 fresh room air exchanges per hour shall be provided in animal housing areas (Guide pg. 46).
• Floors shall be moisture-resistant, non-absorbent, impact-resistant, and relatively smooth (Guide pg. 137). Refer to Physical Plant and Facilities Maintenance policy.

**Housing:**
• Whenever possible, camelids should be socially housed in compatible groups (Guide pg. 51).
• Animals must have enough space to express their natural postures and postural adjustments without touching the enclosure walls or ceiling, be able to turn around, and have ready access to food and water. In addition, there must be sufficient space to comfortably rest away from areas soiled by urine and feces (Guide pg. 56).

When housing this species, please also refer to the Animal Care Program’s Standards of Care Policy on Pest Control, Identification and Labeling of Cages, Environmental Enrichment, Food Storage, House-Keeping in Facilities Housing Biomedical Research Animals, Physical Plant Facilities Maintenance, as well as the IACUC’s Policy on Social Housing of Social Species.