

Policy: SC-34-400
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ILAR
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Title: Husbandry Care of Raptors

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for raptors.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for raptors must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*). Deviations or exceptions must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC. Additionally, wild caught birds and birds not bred for research must meet the requirements set forth by the USDA (AWA).

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 the findings to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure.
- Record minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity if animals are housed indoors.
 - Temperature range for raptors is species dependent.
 - Humidity range for raptors is 30% to 70% (*Guide* pg. 44).
- Spot clean excessively soiled or flooded areas of housing (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Clean and organize room, anterooms, and surrounding premises (*Guide* pg. 72).
- Record daily completion of each task, initial each task, and date the log.

Biweekly:

- Clean cages, feeders and waterers (*Guide* pg. 70). There may be exceptions to this schedule during the breeding season that should be included in the husbandry SOP.
- Per AWA, Primary enclosures and food and water receptacles for birds must be sanitized as often as necessary to prevent accumulation of dirt, debris, food waste, excreta, and other disease hazards. *Provided, however,* that sanitization may be modified or delayed during breeding, egg-sitting, or feeding of chicks for those birds that are easily disrupted during such behaviors. Sanitization must resume when such activity no longer disrupts breeding, egg-sitting, or feeding of chicks. A schedule of sanitization must be documented that includes when

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breeding season began, when the primary enclosure was last sanitized, and when sanitization is expected to resume. (AWA 3.158)

As needed:

- Each facility will develop their own best practices for sanitization at least every 6 months, whenever there is a change in species, or more frequently if needed.
 - Disinfect the animal room including walls, floors, and ceilings (if possible) (*Guide* pg. 72).
 - Clean and sanitize feed storage containers (*Guide* pg. 67).
- Remove and replace worn or damaged equipment from primary enclosures and surrounding facility (*Guide* pg. 72).
- Frozen feed must be discarded after 6 months-1 year of the receipt date unless vendor/source guidelines recommend a shorter or longer expiration date (*Guide* pg. 66).
- Trim excessively long toenails and beaks per facility SOP.
- Each facility will develop their own best practices for sanitization of the macroenvironment typically occurring every 6 months or whenever there is a change in species.

Environmental Enrichment:

A Psychological Well Being Plan must be developed and available for review (AWA 3.154)

Facilities:

- Temperature alarms must be installed in all indoor temperature-controlled rooms housing raptors (*Guide* pg. 143).
- For indoor housed animals, adequate ventilation must be provided for the health and comfort of the animal at all times.
 - 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 SOC 50-102.

Housing:

- Whenever possible, raptors should be socially housed in compatible groups, as applicable based on species (*Guide* pg. 51).
- Floor space taken up by food bowls, water containers, and enrichment devices should not be considered part of the floor space (*Guide* pg. 56).
- 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).