

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Policy: SC-34-400  
Date: 4/1/2022  
Enabled by: IACUC/AV/  
ILAR  
Supersedes: 6/10/2019

### **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.

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.
  - 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.

**Weekly (not to exceed 7 days):**

- Clean cages, feeders and waterers (*Guide* pg. 70).
- Replace bedding for animals in solid-bottom caging/housing.

**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).

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

- 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 with sanitization typically occurring every 6 months or whenever there is a change in species but may vary with facility.

### **Environmental Enrichment:**

- Refer to the Environmental Enrichment policy (SOC-30-102).

### **Facilities:**

- Temperature alarms must be installed in all temperature-controlled rooms housing raptors (*Guide* pg. 143).
- 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).