

Policy: SC-35-200
Date: 4/1/2022
Enabled by: IACUC/AV/
ILAR
Supersedes: 6/14/2019

Title: Husbandry Care for Salamanders

I. Purpose:

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

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for salamanders must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the ILAR 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 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 for reporting sick or dead animals.
- Record minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity.
 - Temperature range for salamanders is species-dependent.
 - Humidity range for salamanders is species-dependent.
- Change any excessively soiled tanks (*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.
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Weekly:

- Provide clean tanks (*Guide* pg. 70).
 - The use of certain disinfectants may be contraindicated for some aquatic species, as residues may be highly deleterious (*Guide* pg. 71).
- Check that water quality parameters are appropriate for the species (*Guide* pg. 78).

As needed:

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

- Feed animals as often as necessary based on species and life-stage (*Guide* pg. 65-68).
- 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).
- Pelleted feed must be discarded after 6 months of the milling date unless manufacturer guidelines recommend a shorter or longer expiration date (*Guide* pg. 66).
- Clean and sanitize feed storage containers (*Guide* pg. 67).
- 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.
- Salamanders should be provided the opportunity to demonstrate species typical behavior. Examples of enrichment for salamanders include faux plants or hiding places (*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 rooms housing salamanders (*Guide* pg. 143).
- Facilities housing certain salamander species (ex: *Necturus*) must follow the conditions specified in the University of California, Davis' California Department of Fish and Wildlife Permit (#537) to import, transport, and possess Restricted Species for Research. A copy of this permit must be posted on the animal room door.
- 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.
- All outlets should be rated GFCI (ground faulted conductance interrupted). (*Guide* p.150)

Housing:

- Whenever possible, salamanders should be socially housed in compatible groups (*Guide* pg. 51).
- Housing density is species-dependent.