Subject:	Animal Use in Laboratories		IACUC ~:~
Source:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)		08/14/23
Effective Date:	08/14/2023		
Replaces:	07/12/2021		
Applies to:	Personnel involved in research or teaching studies involving animals		
Reference:	Animal Welfare Act; PHS Policy on Humane Care & Use of Laboratory Animals; Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals		

Introduction

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) maintains oversight review for federally mandated rules and regulations with regard to animal research, ethics, misconduct and biomedical research for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver | Anschutz).

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to provide information on the requirements of transporting, temporarily housing, and using animals in laboratory spaces.

Temporary Transport Containers:
- Animals taken out of the vivarium to laboratory areas for terminal procedures must be transported in a transport device that is appropriate for the species,
  - Disposable container for rodents (i.e. food container for mice and cardboard container for rats or larger rodents).
  - Animal transport carriers or rolling cages for large species
- See the IACUC Transportation Policy for more specific details regarding how to appropriately transport animals out of the main vivarium, between buildings, or between satellite facilities.

Disposable caging:
- If rodents will be in the laboratory space for greater than 2 hours, they should be moved from the temporary transport container to disposable caging.
  - Rodents may gnaw and chew out of the temporary transport containers if kept there for too long.
  - Due to their high metabolic rate, the animals should be provided food and water if they will be in the lab longer than 6 hours unless there is a scientific need.
- Disposable caging for mice can be purchased from OLAR and will include bedding, a water bottle, and a small bag of appropriately labeled food.
- After each use, disposable cages and accessories can be hand sanitized with dish soap, rinsed with water and re-used a maximum of 10 times.
  - The number of re-uses is standardized to ensure the cleanliness of the lids, efficacy of the filter material, as well as the integrity of the enclosure and fit of the lid to prevent escape.
  - Number of uses should be marked on the side of the cage with an indelible marker.
- Replacement feed and bedding for disposable caging can be taken from the caging that the rodents are leaving in the vivarium.
  - Excess feed can be temporarily stored in the laboratory in a glass or plastic sealable container, labeled with the feed Mill Date from the feed container in the housing room. Feed expires 6 months after the mill date.
  - Additional sterile bedding can be provided by request by the vivarium front office. Excess sterile bedding must be stored in a glass or plastic sealable container. Soiled bedding should never be stored for re-use in the laboratory.

Permanent caging:
- Permanent caging is used in the vivarium and are specially designed for use with individually ventilated cage (IVC) racks.
- Permanent caging from the vivarium must not be removed from the vivarium unless the facility manager has given permission or animals will be returning to the vivarium high risk return room.
- With approval for permanent cage use, cages and water bottles must be returned to the OLAR vivarium as soon as they are finished being used. They are not permitted to remain in the laboratory for use with other animals.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency

(e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. This notification may affect continuous funding of your animal-related research. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.