

Subject: Stabilization of Animals

Source: Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (OLAR),
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Effective Date: 11/11/2024

Replaces: 01/17/2012

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 outline appropriate timelines for the stabilization of routine source laboratory animals. The length of time for stabilization will depend on the species involved and the intended use of the animals. The goal is to ensure animals are free of clinical illness and have acclimated to their environment for physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization prior to exposure to research procedures.

Stabilization

- USDA-Covered Species [Mammalian Species Excluding Laboratory Mice and Rats]:
 - Species covered by the USDA from any source **must** be acclimated for 3 to 5 days prior to the date of use.
 - Terminal procedures require a **minimum** of 3 full days (72 hours) acclimation time from the time of arrival to the time of anesthesia induction.
 - Survival procedures require a **minimum** of 5 full days (120 hours) from time of arrival to time of surgical anesthesia induction or initiation of non-terminal, experimental procedures.
- Laboratory Mice and Rats:
 - It is highly suggested to investigators that all species are given a minimum 5 to 7 day acclimation period to their new environment after arrival. UCDenver policy continues to allow for acute tissue harvest (non-surgical terminal procedures) of mice and rats prior to the 5 to 7 day recommended acclimation period.
- Stabilization time can be adjusted by the veterinary staff or if approved by the IACUC.

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.