DOCUMENTATION OF HUSBANDRY PROCEDURES

Overview/Purpose

In order to ensure compliance with PHS Policy, the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, and the recommendations of The Guide and the Ag Guide, documentation of animal care procedures is required for animals maintained in intensive housing conditions. Intensive housing includes pens, stalls or cages where animals are confined to an area that requires food and water to be provided in order to sustain the animals.

Requirements

In most cases, animal care staff record these activities for animals housed in core vivaria or facilities; when animals are maintained in investigator housing areas, or cared for by investigator staff, documentation becomes the responsibility of the individual completing the action. For example, investigators providing feed or water to their animals (in the case of a special diet or food/water restriction study) or cage changes within a ULAR vivarium must document these activities themselves at the cage or room level as appropriate (forms can be obtained from ULAR for room level documentation or cage level documentation).

All Species

- Daily observation of all animals for general health (including weekends and holidays)
- Daily check of food and water supply
- Housing enclosure and accessories cleaning/sanitization (feeding/water bowls, environmental enrichment) based on frequency in IACUC approved SMPs or SOPs.

Additional Documentation for All Terrestrial Animals Used in Biomedical Research

- Daily recording of room level current, daily high and daily low air temperature (outdoor areas excluded)
- Monthly recording of humidity
- Bedding changes

Additional Documentation for Aquatic and Semi Aquatic Species

- Daily recording of current water temperature for each tank or tank system
- Daily recording of room level current air temperature (outdoor areas excluded)
- Water quality measurements based on frequency in IACUC approved SMPs or SOPs
- Monthly recording of room level percent relative humidity (Semi-aquatic species only)
Applicable Regulations
2. Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR, 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A)
3. Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
5. The Federation of Animal Science Societies Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching

History of Revisions

044-01 - new policy approved 01/18/13

044-02 - brief summary of revisions approved 06/19/15

Removed from requirements: In addition, personnel providing special water must label the water bottle with the agent being used. Frequency of investigator providing food or water should be included in the IACUC protocol. Added - semi aquatic species to aquatic species section. Added details for recording air and/or water temperatures in respective sections.