



## Housing Requirements for Animals

### Overview/Purpose

All animal housing areas are expected to follow the standards set forth in: PHS Policy, the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, the recommendations of *The Guide* and the *Ag Guide* and OSU IACUC Policies.

All housing areas must maintain IACUC-approved SOP (standard operating procedures)/ SMP (standard management plans). The IACUC must review and approve any exceptions or departures from the *Guide* standards, *Ag Guide* standards, or approved SOP/SMP of the dedicated housing area.

### Definitions

- **Animal:** Any live vertebrate species used for research, testing, or teaching.
- **Housing:** An area that houses USDA covered species for greater than 12 hours or any other vertebrate species for greater than 24 hours.
- **Dedicated Housing Areas:** Facilities designed to provide housing specifically for animals and managed by dedicated staff. Examples: ULAR vivaria, OARDC FAHRP, OARDC Wooster campus agricultural facilities, OARDC outlying branches, ATI Wooster agricultural facilities, Animal Sciences Columbus campus agricultural facilities, Alice J. Finley Memorial Farm and the Veterinary Medical Center.
- **Satellite Housing Areas:** Locations outside of dedicated housing facilities that house USDA covered species for greater than 12 hours or any other vertebrate species greater than 24 hours. In e-Protocol, these areas are listed as “Non-ULAR / Investigator Spaces”.

### Requirements

1. Protocols requesting housing of animals in a dedicated area, but requiring housing needs or special equipment not currently addressed in an IACUC approved SOP/SMP must provide the details in the housing section of the protocol or submit a separate SOP for approval
2. Protocols that request housing of animals in a Satellite Housing Area must include:
  - Justification for housing animals outside of a Dedicated Housing Area
  - A complete description of the physical space and equipment
  - A [Standard Operating Procedure](#) for housing and husbandry practices
    - This includes addressing social housing and environmental enrichment
    - SOP templates are available on the IACUC [Investigator Guidance](#) web page, and must be used for mouse static; mouse & rat ventilated housing
    - An example SOP template is available for aquatics species
  - A [work schedule/log sheet](#) for documentation of tasks completed as part of the SOP
    - For rodents: Examples are available (mouse static; mouse & rat ventilated; aquatic species) on the IACUC [Investigator Guidance](#) web page and can be used as written or modified as needed to fit the needs of the housing area.
  - An [Emergency Plan](#)
3. SOP/SMPs and Emergency plans for all housing areas must be reviewed by the IACUC at least once every three years.
4. An environmental alarm system must be activated and functional for housing with environmental controls. Alternatively, justification for an exemption (i.e. increased frequency of animal checks, type of housing minimally impacted by temperature excursions) must be stated in the SOP/SMP.

- Alarm set points must be noted in the SOP/SMP and should be designed specific to the needs of the particular species, season, and/or facility. For example:
    - Mice are more sensitive to the higher end of the temperature range
  - All environmental alarm systems must be tested/verified semi-annually (at a minimum) and documentation made available during IACUC semi-annual inspections. Alarm systems with a battery backup must be tested monthly.
5. Inspections of housing areas must occur prior to housing animals, and at least every six months, but may be inspected more frequently by the IACUC, attending veterinarian (AV), or federal/accrediting officials.
  6. The Office of Attending Veterinarian must be provided access to all animal housing locations per regulatory requirements.

**Exceptions to *Guide* Standards or Dedicated Facilities SOP/SMP:**

1. The IACUC must review and approve any programmatic exceptions or departures from the *Guide* standards, *Ag Guide* standards; or protocol specific exceptions to the facility SOP/SMP.
2. Requests for exceptions or departures must include justification for the request.
3. Requests should include sufficient information showing the exception will not adversely affect the welfare of the animals or demonstrate that production standards will continue to be met despite the departure.
4. Examples of departures from the *Guide* include:
  - Single housing of social animals
  - Housing animals at temperatures outside the recommended ranges
  - Sanitization schedules outside the recommended frequency
  - Housing rodents without contact bedding such as the use of metabolic cages

**Applicable Regulations**

1. Animal Welfare Act (AWA, Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.)
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
4. National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011
5. The Federation of Animal Science Societies *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*, 2010

**Additional Information/Guidance**

1. See Investigator guidance for additional information including [Best Practices for Satellite Housing](#), SOP templates, work schedule/log sheet templates and emergency plan template
2. IACUC policy - [Documentation of Husbandry Procedures](#)

**History of Revisions**

- 015-00** - new policy approved 04/24/2006
- 015-01** – revised 03/23/2007
- 015-02** – revised 08/21/2009
- 015-03** – revised 06/21/2013
- 015-04** – revised 12/20/2013

- 015-05** – revised the frequency of reviewing SOP/SMP from at least annually to at least once every three years, also the policy was put into the new format; approved 11/20/2015
- 015-06** – revised to require a work schedule/log sheet for documentation of tasks completed as part of the SOP/SMP and use of template SOPs (mouse static/ventilated or rat ventilated) when applicable; approved 08/18/2017
- 015-07** – revised to remove required use of template work schedule/log sheet; approved 09/15/2017
- 015-08** – revised to add additional example of Guide exception and additional guidance documents; Requirement #1 edited to clarify information needed for any requests for special housing needs or equipment; Requirement #5 revised to add attending veterinarian (AV); approved 11/17/2017