



Housing Requirements for Animals

Overview/Purpose

All housing areas must follow, as applicable, 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.

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 at OSU.
- **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 eProtocol, these areas are listed as “Non-ULAR / Investigator Spaces”.

Requirements

1. Approved Dedicated Housing Areas must maintain IACUC-approved SOP (standard operating procedures)/ SMP (standard management plans) and, therefore, can be selected in eProtocol without using the “Non ULAR / Investigator Space” entry.
2. Protocols that request housing of animals in a Satellite Housing Area require:
 - 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
 - An [Emergency Plan](#)
3. All housing areas must follow, as applicable, the standards set forth in:
 - *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*
 - *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*
 - Animal Welfare Act and Regulations
 - OSU IACUC Policies
4. SOP/SMPs and Emergency plans for all housing areas must be reviewed by the IACUC at least once every three years.
5. 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.
- 6. 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 or federal/accrediting officials.
- 7. 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

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 [Best Practices for Satellite Housing](#) for detailed guidance
2. See Facility Inspections and Semiannual Reports SOP

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 – revisions reflect 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