



REPORTING OF TEMPERATURE EXCURSIONS IN ANIMAL HOUSING LOCATIONS

Overview/Purpose

The IACUC must be made aware of conditions that have the potential to negatively impact animal welfare. Temperature extremes outside the recommended housing conditions can result in stress or even death, and therefore are considered a critical parameter. This policy provides guidance on expectations for action following temperature excursions in animal housing areas and specifically defines requirements for reporting to the IACUC.

Definition

- 1. Temperature excursions** - any temperature outside the *Guide* recommended range (see Table 3.1 below) or the range approved in IACUC housing SOPs/SMPs

Requirements

1. Reporting Requirements

- Temperature excursions must be reported to a PI, facility manager, building coordinator and/or Service2Facilities at 292-HELP;
- Temperature excursions must also be reported to IACUC within 24 hours when:
 - Excursions negatively impact animal welfare resulting in morbidity and/or mortality
 - Excursions result in animals being moved out of the housing location

2. Documentation Requirements: All actions taken as a result of temperature excursions must be documented and available during semiannual inspections. For example:

- Printed email and/or date and time of phone communication with a PI, facility manager, team leader, etc.) even if no other action was taken
- Reports to FOD (e.g., printed email and/or date and time of phone communication, S2F work order, PO to commercial vendor for repairs)
- Documentation that actions taken to resolve a problem have been completed (e.g., printed email that a repair is complete, documentation that a work order is closed, commercial vendor receipt)

TABLE 3.1 Recommended Dry-Bulb Macroenvironmental Temperatures for Common Laboratory Animals		
Animal	Dry-Bulb Temperature	
	°C	°F
Mouse, rat, hamster, gerbil, guinea pig	20-26	68-79
Rabbit	16-22	61-72
Cat, dog, nonhuman primate	18-29	64-84
Farm animals, poultry	16-27	61-81

Applicable Regulations

- National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011, p. 44

Additional Information/Guidance

Reporting to the IACUC: an email describing the problem and actions taken can be submitted to IACUCinfo@osu.edu, or verbal notification can be provided by calling 292-0409 or 292-4494

An example of a **work order log for environmental concerns** can be downloaded here and used or modified as needed <http://orrr.osu.edu/iacuc/investigator-guidance/>

History of Revisions

052-00 - new policy approved 10/18/13

052-01 - Changed title to explicitly state "Temperature Excursions" as that was the only environmental problem addressed, clarified that action taken at a minimum must be to report the excursion, and provided specific guidance on when to report to IACUC; approved 07/18/14

052-02 – Deleted the term supervisor. Added the term team leader approved 02/17/17