

University of Vermont
Institutional Animal Care and Use
Committee Approved: 1/23/2012
Revised 5/21/18

Policy Regarding Aged Animals

Aged animals often develop degenerative disease and require special care. In addition, animals who have reached reproductive senescence will not be productive breeders. There must be a scientifically valid objective for maintaining aged animals in the research colonies. In the case of laboratory mice or rats, animals should be retired from breeding or research colonies and euthanized no later than fourteen months of age unless the objective of the protocol is to observe a degenerative disease process that develops through aging. The necessity for maintaining geriatric animals should be indicated and justified in the IACUC protocol, as well as a clinical plan with clear endpoints for animals that develop debilitating disease.