

University of Vermont  
Institutional Animal Care and Use  
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### **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, 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. 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.