

## University of Vermont

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### Housing Animals Outside of and/or Removal of Animals From the Central Animal Facility

#### Definitions:

**Study Area:** "Study area means any building room, area, enclosure or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 12 hours". 9CFR Chapter 1§ 1.1

**Satellite Facility:** "A satellite facility is any containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 24 hours." - *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

#### Policy and Procedures:

It is the General Policy of the University of Vermont/Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to centralize animal facilities as much as possible. Removal of animals outside of the Central Animal Facility and housing animals outside of the Central Animal Facility in a study area (or satellite facility) for more than 12 hours must be justified. The Guide allows for the use of special environments with proper justification. Therefore, all of the specifics of the Guide may not need to be addressed for every study area or satellite facility. However, each protocol must address the basic principles for proper care and use of animals as outlined in the Guide. Because a study area (or satellite facility) is outside the Central Animal Facility, it becomes the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that all of the specifics included in the protocol for care and use of the animals are carried out. It is also the PI's responsibility to see that all personnel having incidental exposure to the animals are enrolled in the Occupational Health Program. Veterinary oversight remains the same as if the animals were in the Central Animal Facility and additional IACUC oversight may be required. (e.g., semi-annual inspections for Study Areas).

The following are the categories of standards listed in the Guide (Chapter 2) which will need to be addressed by the researcher. These must be included in a set of standard operating procedures which must be submitted with the animal use protocol. The categories of standards are:

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Microenvironment and Macroenvironment
- Housing
  - Primary Enclosures
  - Sheltered or Outdoor Housing
  - Naturalistic Environments
- Space Recommendations
- Temperature and Humidity
- Ventilation
- Illumination
- Noise

#### BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT

- Structural Environment
- Social Environment

Activity

## **HUSBANDRY**

Food

Water

Bedding

Sanitation

    Bedding Change

    Cleaning and Disinfection of Primary Enclosures

    Cleaning and Disinfection of Secondary Enclosures

    Assessing the Effectiveness of Sanitation

Waste Disposal

Pest Control

Emergency, Weekend, and Holiday Care

## **POPULATION MANAGEMENT**

Identification and Records

Genetics and Nomenclature

## **HOOD POLICY**

As follows

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### **Policy on Housing Rodents in Laboratories**

Vertebrate animals on the grounds of the University of Vermont will normally only be held for up to twelve hours outside standard animal holding facilities. Under specified and approved conditions they may be housed for longer periods. Those specified conditions include the following:

1. Prior inspection and approval of the spaces by an IACUC appointed site visit team.
2. Rodents must be held in 100% exhausted air hoods certified by Environmental Health and safety. Exhaust air hoods must be dedicated solely to animal holding.
3. Numbers of rodents will be limited to those that will fit in the hood.
4. Posting of the emergency veterinary roster on call with phone numbers in the immediate area is required.
5. The hood environment will comply with the same standards as animal rooms in the central animal facilities. This includes the following:
  - a. Documentation of observation and care posted on a daily log near the hood with entries for every day animals are present. This daily documentation must include when cages are changed, maximum, minimum, and current temperature in the hood recorded, frequency, duration, how animals were manipulated and any problems noted with food and/or water intake.
  - b. Sanitization of the hood prior to housing rodents is required at least monthly for continuous animal housing.
  - c. Documentation of light cycles in the room (time lights turned on and off) needs to be included on the daily log sheet.
  - d. Identification of the person responsible for the daily care of the animals being held in the hood, with emergency notification of veterinary information.

- e. Problems are to be phoned into a ARC/OACM clinical veterinary staff person at 802-656-0459 or refer to posting of emergency numbers.
- f. Every animal cage must be properly identified and include the following information: Investigator name and emergency phone number; Protocol number; Species and stock or strain; Source of the animal(s); Pertinent dates.

Laboratories with hoods holding animals will be site visited at least every six months by a team from the IACUC to evaluate standards of care and handling and to certify that the requirements of the "Guide" are being met. In addition representatives from the clinical veterinary staff of ARC/OACM will make periodic checks to evaluate animal health.