Requests for an Exception to Federal Regulation or Institutional Policy

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requires that all requests for Exceptions to regulations, policies or nationally accepted standards be reviewed and approved at a convened meeting. The Principal Investigator (PI) must receive written IACUC approval prior to implementing any Exception. Exceptions based on scientific or animal welfare rationale may be requested at any time.

Upon submission of an amendment requesting an ‘Exception’, Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) staff will determine whether the request constitutes an exception to Guide recommendations, Federal Regulations or Institutional Policies. If this is the case, the IACUC will review the requested exception.

After ‘Exception’ approval, the PI is responsible for: 1) providing a copy of the approved Exception to the DLAM facility supervisor(s) in the appropriate housing facility(ies); and 2) identifying all animals covered by an exception by printing a large, red letter “E” in the upper-right corner of the cage card.

The DLAM facility supervisor will inform DLAM husbandry staff of the Exception details and will place the received copy in the room binder located outside the animal room. DLAM personnel are only responsible for adhering to Exceptions if the PI has provided the DLAM supervisor with a copy of the Exception and has properly identified cages of animals covered by the Exception.

Note: If required, the investigator is responsible for maintaining a readily accessible log documenting adequate animal monitoring and care as indicated in the exception. The log must be maintained in the designated area within the animal room so that it is available to DLAM.
staff, IACUC members, and/or regulatory personnel. The log must include the date of observation, initials of the individual responsible for monitoring, and any pertinent comments.

A request for Exception to Regulation or Policy requires written response to the following:

1. Description of the exception
2. Rationale (provide scientific justification and/or justification based on animal welfare)
3. Potential adverse effects/clinical signs resulting from exception
4. Specify which animals in the approved protocol will be affected