INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)
Policy on Exceptions to IACUC Policies

The IACUC is charged with overseeing humane care and use of animals used in teaching and research and with ensuring adherence to federal and institutional animal welfare policies. In order to comply with this federal mandate, the IACUC requires that a Principal Investigator (PI) formally apply for an ‘exception’ when wishing to deviate from institutional or Federal regulations and policies or nationally accepted standards. All requests for exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC and the PI must receive written approval prior to implementation.

Exception requests are made by completing addendum 8.0 of the Animal Care Application (ACAP). The PI must provide the following information: a description of exception; the rationale (i.e., scientific justification and/or justification based on animal welfare); potential adverse effects/clinical signs resulting from exception; and an indication of which animals in the approved application will be affected.

After the exception is approved, the PI is responsible for meeting with the DLAM Facility Manager/Supervisor to review the exception and for filing the exception in the notebook within the metal box outside the animal room. Place the exception in the back pocket of the three-ring binder within the metal box. The PI should update approved exceptions as necessary and must maintain a current copy of all exceptions in the metal folder outside all rooms in every animal facility where his/her animals are housed. Cages covered under the exception must be clearly identified with a capital red letter “E” in the upper right corner of the DLAM barcoded cage card. In a reverse light cycle room, this capital “E” should be in black or blue ink. When an Exception applies to all cages in a room, the PI may discuss labelling the door of the room, instead of each individual cage, with the DLAM Facility Manager.

Please contact the Office of Animal Care and Use at 966-5569 if you have any questions.