UNIVERSITY STANDARD

Title

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
STANDARD ON ACCLIMATION PERIOD FOR RECEIVED ANIMAL TRANSFER/SHIPMENTS

Introduction

PURPOSE
The standards and procedures described below provide guidance to all researchers and animal handlers for the acclimation period for received animal transfer/shipments. Animals need a period of time for physiological, psychological, and nutritional stabilization to occur. An acclimation period allows animals time to stabilize in a new environment and promotes both animal welfare and reproducible experimental results. The length of time for acclimation will depend upon the type and duration of animal transportation, the species involved, and the intended use of the animals.

SCOPE OF APPLICABILITY
All personnel involved with animal research at UNC-CH who receive transferred animals.

The UNC-CH IACUC expects that anyone involved in animal work at the University will comply with this Standard. Requests for exceptions to this Standard must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC and/or DCM Veterinarians.

Standard

Newly received laboratory animals should be held for a minimum period of 48-72 hours (depending on the species and procedural use) without undergoing any experimental or other manipulation.

Contact a DCM veterinarian if an acclimatization period cannot be utilized for experimental procedures involving newly received animals.

Ensure that all pertinent information in regards to animal transfers and post-shipments is included within the appropriate Animal Care Applications. All animal transfers must be approved by DLAM (including those between UNC animal facilities).
See Animal Transport and Biosecurity Policy for more information.

EXCEPTIONS
Requests for exceptions to this Standard must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC and/or DCM Veterinarians.

Definitions

IACUC: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
DCM: Division of Comparative Medicine  
University Standard: The minimum acceptable limits or rules used to achieve Policy implementation, enforceable by the IACUC.  
Acclimation: Physiological adjustment by an organism to environmental change  
Acclimatization: The process in which an individual organism adjusts to a gradual change in its environment (such as a change in temperature, humidity, photoperiod, or pH), allowing it to maintain performance across a range of environmental conditions. Acclimation occurs in a short period of time, and within the organism's lifetime.

Related Requirements

EXTERNAL REGULATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES: Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: p111  
UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES:  
For more detailed guidance, please refer to the University Policy on the Care and Use of Vertebrate Animals for Research, Training and Teaching Purposes.
### Contact Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Information</td>
<td>Office of Animal Care and Use</td>
<td>919-966-5569</td>
<td><a href="mailto:iacuc@med.unc.edu">iacuc@med.unc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Information</td>
<td>DCM Veterinarians</td>
<td>919-843-7992</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Important Dates

- Effective Date and title of Approver: 11/08/2013; UNC IACUC
- Revision and Review Dates, Change notes, title of Reviewer or Approver: 11/08/2013; revised 02/2018

Approved by: UNC IACUC

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Dr. Mitchell Picker  
UNC IACUC Chair