



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Office of Research Compliance (ORC)

Food Storage Policy

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS
Web Address

Effective: *September 28, 2009*
Last Updated: --

Responsible University Officer:
Fred H. Cate
Vice President for Research

Policy Owner:
*Bloomington Institutional Animal Care and Use
Committee*

Policy Contact:
IACUC Administrator

Policy Statement

1. All compounded diets and feeds must be stored according to manufacturer's instructions or consistent with best husbandry practices.
2. All compounded diets or other food products must not be stored longer than six months from their mill/manufacture date. If the animal feed package does not have this date indicated, it should be labeled with the purchase date and stored a maximum of six months from that date.

3. If the manufacturer analysis indicates that frozen storage extends shelf life beyond six months, the feed may be stored for such a time that is consistent with the manufacture's recommendations.
 - a. Once thawed, feed must be used immediately. The date that the frozen food was thawed or constituted should be noted on the container.
4. When using human food products to feed animals, the expiration date on the package will determine storage time. Human food without such a date should be labeled with the purchase date and may be stored for a maximum of six months from that date. These products are to be labeled as: **For Animal Use Only**
5. Seeds may be stored for a maximum of one year from the date of purchase.

Scope

Per the 8th edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (p. 65-66):

Animals should be fed palatable, uncontaminated diets that meet their nutritional and behavioral needs at least daily, or according to their particular requirements, unless the protocol in which they are being used requires otherwise.

The user should know the date of manufacture and other factors that affect the food's shelf-life. Stale food or food transported and stored inappropriately can become deficient in nutrients. Careful attention should be paid to quantities received in each shipment, and stock should be rotated so that the oldest food is used first.

Most natural-ingredient, dry laboratory animal diets stored properly can be used up to 6 months after manufacture. Nonstabilized vitamin C in manufactured feeds generally has a shelf life of only 3 months, but commonly used stabilized forms can extend the shelf life of feed. Refrigeration preserves nutritional quality and lengthens shelf-life, but food-storage time should be reduced to the lowest practical period and the manufacturers' recommendations considered. Purified and chemically defined diets are often less stable than natural-ingredient diets and their shelf life is usually less than 6 months (Fullerton et al. 1982); they should be stored at 4° C (39° F) or lower.

Sanctions

Failure to comply with IACUC policies may result in non-compliance reports to the Vice President for Research Administration, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and/or suspension of animal use privileges. In addition, the availability of sponsored research funds may be affected any time an investigator is found to be in violation of these policies.

Contacts

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
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Web Address for this Policy

<https://research.iu.edu/policies/bloomington-animal-care-and-use.html>