



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

Stabilization of Newly Arrived Research and Teaching Animals

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Web Address

Effective: *October 15, 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

Following transport to a campus facility, animals should be maintained in their resident housing units for at least 48 hours prior to use in teaching or research activities. This is the minimum amount of time to allow for a period of initial physiological, psychological, and nutritional stabilization. The length of time necessary for stabilization depends on the species involved, type and duration of transport, and intended use of the animals. The researcher should consider if additional stabilization time would be necessary and appropriate. In accordance with USDA guidelines, initial physical exams are completed on all USDA-regulated animal species prior to their use in research or teaching activities. These exams will be conducted by LAR veterinary staff during the 48-hour acclimation period whenever possible; however, it may be necessary to extend the acclimation period, allowing for the completion of physical exams.

Animals may be excluded from coverage of this policy and utilized within 48 hours of arrival for the following reasons:

1. Animals are to undergo immediate terminal procedures.
2. The PI provides justification explaining why stabilization will interfere with proposed animal use or scientific objective(s). For example:
 - 1) Measurements or manipulations of physiology or behavior in field-collected wild animals may be required soon after collection to maintain the animal's physiological state,
 - 2) To assess the baseline biological condition of animals before longer term responses to laboratory housing occurs,
 - or 3) To conduct brief experiments that require the animal's physiological state to closely approximate its physiological condition in the wild.

Justifications for exceptions to the policy must be included in the animal use protocol and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

Reason for Policy

Newly arrived animals should be given a period for physiological, psychological, and nutritional stabilization before their use.* The need for a stabilization period has been demonstrated in mice, rats, guinea pigs, and other species. The effects of transport, significant temperature fluctuations, and alterations in feeding, watering, and housing conditions are physiological stressors that may impact both the animal's health status and research results.

**Reference: The Guide, 8th edition, p111.*

Sanctions

Failure to comply with IACUC policies may result in non-compliance reports to the Institutional Official, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and/or a suspension of animal use privileges. In addition, the availability of sponsored research funds may be affected when an Investigator is found to be in violation of these policies.

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Phone	Email
Veterinary Concerns	Attending Veterinarian	855-2356	lar@indiana.edu
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Policy	IACUC Administrator	855-5138	biacuc@indiana.edu

Web Address for this Policy

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