POLICY

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) provide centralized animal housing facilities through UNMC Comparative Medicine (CM) and the UNO Animal Care Committee to meet the research and teaching needs of the university. The physical plant, ventilation, lighting, humidity, vermin control and sanitation measures, as well as the monitoring and health care programs for the animals within these facilities are all designed to comply with the Guide.

Any area outside of the centralized animal facilities where animals are held for more than 24 hours (non-USDA species) or 12 hours (USDA covered species) must be scientifically justified and approved by the IACUC. These holding areas are typically located in a laboratory and hold animals for a short period of time for a procedure that cannot be performed in the central animal facility, for particular phases of the experiment that may not be able to be accommodated within the central animal care facility. Federal regulations require strong justification for holding animals outside the centralized facility beyond these specified limits. Convenience is not acceptable justification for holding animals outside the centralized facilities. In addition, the holding area must be inspected by the IACUC prior to animals being present. The USDA may visit those areas during unannounced inspections and AAALAC will visit them during their scheduled site visit.

If IACUC approval is given the Principal Investigator (PI) must ensure that all federal regulations, as defined by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals are carried out, seven days a week, 24 hours per day. In addition the PI is responsible for making sure of the following:

- All personnel having incidental exposure to the animals while in the laboratory are included in the Occupational Health Program.

- All personnel involved in handling animals are listed on the IACUC protocol and appropriately trained in animal care and use.

- Any animal illness, injury, or anticipated abnormal behavior shall be reported promptly to a staff veterinarian.

- Daily monitoring and documentation.

All animal holding areas outside of the Comparative Medicine and UNO centralized facilities are subject to periodic and unannounced inspections by the IACUC, CM or UNO animal care staff, the Protocol Assessment Liaison (PAL), and other regulatory and accreditation agencies as necessary.

REQUIREMENTS

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals Eighth Edition, ILAR, NAS, Eighth Edition, 2011, pg 134 Location; Animals should be housed in facilities dedicated or assigned for that purpose, not in laboratories merely for convenience.

PHS Policy IV.B.2. inspect at least once every six months all of the institution’s animals facilities (including satellite facilities) using the Guide as a basis for evaluation; III.Definitions-B. A satellite facility is any containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 24 hours.
USDA Animal Welfare Act and Regulations 9 CFR 2.31 (d)(vi) The animals’ living conditions will be appropriate for their species in accordance with part 3 of this subchapter and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing feeding, and nonmedical care of the animals will be directed by the attending veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied. **9CFR 1.1** Study Area means any building room, area, enclosure, or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 12 hours.

**PROCEDURE**

1.0 IACUC Approval and Inspection of Proposed Animal Housing Area
   1.1 Submission of a new or modified IACUC protocol containing scientific justification for housing animals outside of the central animal facility must be submitted for review to the IACUC.
   1.2 Upon approval of the proposal the IACUC will schedule a time to inspect the area where animals will be housed.

2.0 Animal Monitoring and Husbandry Procedures will be followed according to the CM or UNO Animal Facility requirements
   2.1 PIs or their staff are required to complete the Holding Animals Outside Centralized Facility Maintenance Room Chart (see links below)
   2.2 This record must be kept on file by the PI and is subject to periodic and unannounced inspections by the IACUC, CM or UNO animal care staff, the Protocol Assessment Liaison (PAL), and other regulatory and accreditation agencies as necessary.

**LINKS TO RELATED FORMS, RECORD LOGS, AND SOPS**

- Holding Animals Outside Centralized Facility Maintenance Room Chart
- Holding Animals Outside Centralized Facility Maintenance Room Chart – Salamander Care

**Administrative Approval by Institutional Official:** 05/24/2013