

## Purdue University Laboratory Animal Program Standards of Care

### **Title: Acquisition and Acclimation**

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#### I. Purpose:

To establish appropriate acquisition methods and acclimation periods for newly received research and teaching animals. Per the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the Guide), newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychological, and nutritional stabilization before their use. Experience has shown that animals that are properly acclimated do better on study and provide more consistent and relevant, reproducible data in addition to the welfare concern of coping with the stress of shipping. Acquisition of agricultural animals should be done in compliance with the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (the Ag Guide).

#### II. Policy:

Research and teaching animals should be procured according to the IACUC Guidelines on Acquisition, Stabilization, and Acclimation. All acquisitions, except those involving agricultural animals bought at auction, are initiated through IACUC Animal Ordering. All departmental/facility procedures regarding animal acquisition must be followed to ensure adequate and appropriate space is available. The veterinary staff or designated animal facility staff will examine incoming animals as required by veterinary policy and operating procedures. Animal Facilities should develop local standard operating procedures for acquisition and acclimation with their veterinary staff. Vendors and other sources must be approved by the Laboratory Animal Program, usually by inclusion as a source in an animal care and use protocol. The use of vendors that are AAALAC accredited and produce purpose bred laboratory animals is expected. It is also expected that USDA covered species come from a registered facility and be class A animals. Exceptions to these sourcing requirements must be documented in an approved IACUC protocol. Imports of animals from other Universities or Institutions should also come from similar accredited and registered facilities and each source be listed in an approved animal care and use protocol.

For housing wild-caught USDA covered species, an animal requisition form should be submitted to IACUC Animal Ordering within 24 hours of collection to keep accurate records for animals used on the protocol. An animal requisition form is recommended but not required for non-covered wild-caught species, however the numbers of animals used must be reported annually to the IACUC to keep accurate records for animals used on the protocol.

III. Procedure:

When animals arrive from off campus sources: they should have an acclimation period prior to experimental use.

Please contact LAP Administration Office 765-496-1019 or email IACUC Animal Ordering at [animalordering@purdue.edu](mailto:animalordering@purdue.edu) for guidance regarding acquiring animals from non-vendor, off campus sources. Generally, rodents may be used on arrival for terminal procedures, but should have a 3-day acclimation period prior to anesthesia, surgery or similarly invasive procedures.

For species covered by the USDA Animal Welfare Act (AWA), a minimum of 7 days post arrival acclimation is required prior to any major survival manipulations. This allows for examination, post arrival testing, and processing by the veterinary staff or designated facility manager. A minimum of 24 hours/overnight acclimation is recommended for terminal use to allow for intake exam by the veterinary staff or designated facility manager.

In addition, certain species may have required diagnostics that must be performed prior to study.

Wild caught rodents may require testing for zoonotic diseases.

USDA covered species, excluding wild-caught birds, must be observed by the veterinary or other appointed staff within 24 hours of arrival or one business day. Wild-caught birds should be observed by veterinary staff within one week of arrival.

Animals arriving in less than fair condition will be evaluated by the veterinary staff or designated facility manager prior to release for study. Animals arriving in poor condition or displaying any abnormal characteristics or any adverse effects from the travel must be reported to the veterinary staff. Additional acclimation time may be required for animals that arrive in poor condition or they may be rejected and a suitable replacement requested from the vendor.

Individual exceptions may be granted by a LAP veterinarian. This veterinarian may waive the acclimation period for experimental reasons if the animal appears in their professional opinion to be suitable for experimental use.

Study related exceptions that are more than occasional exceptions to this policy should be written into the animal use and care protocol and be scientifically justified.

See species Standards of Care and Preventative Maintenance documents for more information relating to husbandry, bio-exclusion, and care of animals.