

PACUC Guidelines

Stabilization and Acclimation of Research, Teaching, and Testing Animals

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching* recommend a period of stabilization and acclimation for newly arrived animals. This period allows newly arrived animals time to adjust to new surroundings, feed, light/dark cycles, cage/pen mates, and personnel prior to being used on research, teaching, or testing protocols.

Guidelines listed below are for minimum periods of stabilization and acclimation for species to be used in survival procedures. These guidelines are not intended to supersede any more stringent quarantine or acclimation requirements established by individual animal facilities at Purdue University for newly arrived animals. In addition, it is recognized that shorter periods of acclimation may be desirable, as in the case of studies involving wildlife, where long periods of acclimation could become stressful.

- Rodent species should have a minimum acclimation period of 3 days.
- Non-rodents species to include dogs, cats, rabbits, and livestock species should have a minimum acclimation period of 7 days.

Newly arrived animals to be used in acute non-survival procedures should undergo a period of stabilization and acclimation if the investigator determines that not doing so will affect the study.

References

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4. Tuli JS, Smith JA, Morton DB, **Stress measurements in mice after transportation.** Laboratory Animals. 29 (2): 132-8, 1995.
5. van Ruiven R, Meijer GW, Wieersma A, Baumans V, van Zutphen LF, Ritskes-Hoitinga J, **The influence of transportation stress on selected nutritional parameters to establish the necessary minimum period for adaptation in rat feeding studies.** Lab Anim 32(4): 446-56, 1998.
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