

LAP Guidelines – Acquisition, Stabilization and Acclimation of Research, Teaching, and Testing Animals

Acquisition

Animal procurement must be in accordance with LAP guidelines on the acquisition of animals. Animals shall not be procured for, or transferred to, investigators who do not have an IACUC approved protocol.

Animals bred under an approved protocol or animals that were purchased from an approved vendor may be transferred to another approved protocol with IACUC and veterinary review and approval.

Animals that have been used for a procedure may not be transferred to another protocol unless the originating protocol is approved to transfer animals to other approved protocols in the final disposition section and the receiving protocol lists approved protocols as a source. Animals may not be transferred from protocol-to-protocol to undergo multiple procedures for the same study objectives. All procedures that a single animal may undergo for a given study must be approved in a single protocol.

Transactions requiring approval before animals may be acquired:

- All animal purchases and imports must be submitted through LAP Animal Ordering prior to animals being purchased or imported.
- All animal transfers must be submitted through the IACUC Office prior to transferring to another approved protocol.

Animal Transfers include:

- Transferring animals from one PI's protocol to a different PI's protocol (requires IACUC and LAP approval) via the Animal Transfer Form
- Transferring animals from one PI's protocol to a different protocol under the same PI (requires IACUC and LAP approval) via the Animal Transfer Form

Moving Animals includes:

- Moving animals from one approved centrally-managed location to another requires Centrally-Managed Animal Facility (CMAF) approval via an Animal Movement Form.

Acclimation and Stabilization

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-rodent species and USDA-covered species to include dogs, cats, rabbits, chinchillas, hamsters, gerbils, and livestock species should have a minimum acclimation period of 7 days.

References:

1. Grandin T, **Assessment of Stress During Handling and Transport.** *J Anim Sci*, 75: 249-257, 1997.
2. Concour LA, Murray KA, Brown MJ. **Preparation of Animals for Research: Issues to Consider for Rodents and Rabbits.** *ILAR* 47 (4): 283-293, 2006.
3. Sevi A, Tailbi L, Albenzio M, Muscio A, Dell'Aquila S, Napolitano F. **Behavioral, adrenal, immune, and productive responses of lactating ewes to regrouping and relocation.** *J Anim Sci*, 79 (6): 1457-65, 2001.
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.
6. NRC **Preparation of Animals for Research** *ILAR* 47(4): 281-375, 2006.