

IACUC Policy

Required Daily Observation Record Keeping for Research and Teaching Animals

Key Points:

- **DAILY OBSERVATION OF ALL ANIMALS MUST BE PROVIDED BY TRAINED STAFF.**
- **DOCUMENTATION OF DAILY OBSERVATIONS MUST BE PERFORMED.**
- **“CHECK OFF” SHEETS CAN BE USED TO RECORD DAILY OBSERVATIONS**

Regulations and standards for animal care require that daily observations be made of all animals confined to animal facilities to assess their health and well-being. This is needed for both normal and abnormal (e.g. post-surgical or ill) animal(s). This observation may be accomplished by someone other than a veterinarian provided that a mechanism is in place to communicate problems of animal health and well-being to the veterinarian on a timely basis.

Documentation of daily observations is necessary for all animals used in research and teaching at Purdue University. Recording daily observations informs animal caretakers, investigators, the Purdue University Attending Veterinarian and visiting USDA veterinary officer that the animal(s) have been observed for any abnormalities. An example of a daily observation form may be found on the IACUC website: www.purdue.edu/animals.

For agricultural animals used in agricultural research and teaching housed in pasture or other extensive conditions, animal observation should be frequent enough to detect illness or injury in a timely fashion, recognize the need for emergency action, and ensure adequate availability of feed and water as in the “Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching” pg 22.

For normal animals, documentation is routinely accomplished by providing verification that someone has observed the animal(s) and that no evidence of illness, injury, or abnormal behavior was noted.

When providing daily care or treatment to an ill, injured or otherwise abnormal animal, documentation should meet certain additional standards as outlined in the American College of Laboratory Medicine position statement Medical Records for Animals Used in Research, Teaching, and Testing: <https://www.aclam.org/about/position-statements>

**** Any exceptions to this policy must be reviewed and approved by IACUC****