Policy for Adequate Animal Care in Animal Study Areas

Animal Study Area: A study area is an area outside an approved university animal housing facility where animals are housed for a period of 12 or more hours.

All animal study areas must be approved by the Purdue University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC) prior to use and are subject to inspections by the PACUC. By housing animals in a study area, the investigative / research staff assumes certain responsibilities associated with such use to include:

- **Animal Care Staff and Training**
  All individuals working with animals must be properly trained in order to provide adequate care to the animals. Information regarding training can be acquired via the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP).

- **Daily Care of Animals**
  All animals must be cared for and observed at least daily, including weekends & holidays. Daily animal care must be documented. A Daily Animal Care sheet or log book, maintained in the area with the animals, is suitable to document the provision of daily care.

- **Veterinary Care of Animals**
  If any animal is noted as being abnormal, sick, injured or is found dead, you must notify the laboratory animal veterinary staff as soon as possible (494-9163).

- **Water, Feeding and Storage of Feed**
  Animals will be fed a palatable, noncontaminated, and nutritionally adequate food daily or according to their particular species requirements. Feeding instructions should be documented in order to ensure animal care staff is feeding the proper amount. Open bags of feed must be stored in enclosed, vermin-proof containers. Feed containers must be labeled with type of feed and milling date (if feed is not milled, the date the feed was purchased/acquired should be on the container). Animals should have access to potable, noncontaminated drinking water according to their particular species requirements.

- **Identification of Animals**
  Animals need to be clearly identified through the use of cage cards that include name of responsible investigator(s), source, species/strain/breed, number of animals in cage/enclosure, approved IACUC protocol #, and information such as birth/age, sex, arrival, and surgery dates (where applicable).

- **Sanitation, Housekeeping & Cage Placement**
  Cages/enclosures must be sanitized regularly in order to provide a healthy environment for the animal. The sanitation and cleaning schedule should be documented. This can be accomplished by documenting the cleaning duties performed each day on the Daily Animal Care Sheet. A specific location in the laboratory used for the animal study area should be designated solely for animal housing and be free of clutter. The animal study area must be kept neat and clean. The area/facility should have surfaces that are easily sanitized. These surfaces should be wiped clean daily and sanitized at least weekly.

- **Environmental Monitoring**
  The area where the animals are housed should be suitable for that particular species and must be monitored on a daily basis to ensure proper environmental parameters (i.e. temperature, humidity) are being maintained. A minimum/maximum thermometer & hygrometer needs to be placed in each animal room. These units can be purchased from Fisher Scientific (www.fishersci.com) or VWR Scientific Products (www.vwrsp.com). The temperature and humidity readings should be recorded on the Daily Animal Care Sheet. For species specific recommendations on environmental parameters, please contact the LAP office at 494-9163.

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• **Illumination**
  Traditionally, laboratory animal housing areas are equipped with controlled lighting systems that provide regular diurnal cycles. If it is not possible to control the lighting in the animal study area, the researcher must be certain that variable light cycles will not affect the research objectives and data. Where it is not possible to control the lighting in the animal study area, as a minimum lights should be turned off at night / on in the morning.

• **Emergency information and Security**
  Emergency contact information must be posted in order to instruct emergency and maintenance personnel who to contact if there is a concern with the animal housing. This should include office and after-hours phone numbers. The animal study area should be kept locked and access should be restricted to authorized personnel only.

• **Additional Information**
  For additional information regarding proper animal care and use, please contact the Purdue University LAP office at 494-9163. All animal housing must conform to the standards in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. To acquire a copy of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals contact the LAP office at 494-9163.

It is recommended this policy be posted in the animal study area.