Subject: Overnight and Long-Term Housing of Animals in Investigator Laboratories

BACKGROUND

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the *Guide*, NRC 2011) states: “Animals should be housed in facilities dedicated to or assigned for that purpose, not in laboratories merely for convenience. If animals must be maintained in a laboratory to satisfy the scientific aims of a protocol, that space should be appropriate to house and care for the animals and its use limited to the period during which it is required. If needed, measures should be taken to minimize occupational hazards related to exposure to animals both in the research area and during transport to and from the area.” (p. 134)

IACUC Policy

1. Research animals must be housed within the DLAR facilities. Animals may be taken to the researcher laboratory for up to 12 hours but then must return to the DLAR facility.

2. If experimental manipulations require overnight housing in a laboratory, it must be justified and approved in the IACUC protocol application or via amendment.

3. The proposed laboratory housing space must be appropriate with regard to all applicable requirements, including: temperature, humidity, light cycle, air exchanges, pathogen control, security, and employee safety. Additionally, an appropriate sanitization program must be established for the housing space. Occupied cages may not be stacked on top of one another or kept on the floor.
   a. A min/max thermometer must be used and checked daily. If the temperature falls outside of the temperatures recommended in the *Guide*, it is the laboratory’s responsibility to report the problem to WSU FP&M. If satisfactory corrective action is not obtained, contact DLAR for assistance.

4. Animals must be checked daily, including holidays and weekends.

5. DLAR or laboratory personnel may provide daily animal care for the animals while they are housed in the laboratory. If laboratory personnel provide the care, they must be trained by DLAR and use the applicable DLAR Standard Operating Procedures or other procedures that ensure regulatory standards are met.

6. Documentation of animal care activities, a log of temperature and humidity, and a census sheet must be maintained by laboratory personnel, and the documents must be clearly posted or readily available upon request. Documents must be submitted to the DLAR Leader of the facility of origin or Business Office each month, by email, fax, or campus mail. A census sheet needs to be completed and submitted to DLAR each month as full per diem rates apply.

7. Information should be posted in the animal housing area to reflect contact information for the principal investigator, DLAR veterinarian, and any other support personnel that may need to be contacted in case of an emergency. The current emergency veterinary on-call roster with phone numbers must be visibly posted in the immediate area.

8. Emergency access must be provided to DLAR (for example, in the event of a building system malfunction).

9. All laboratories housing animals will be checked regularly by DLAR staff, IACUC inspectors, and/or Research Compliance staff.
10. The IACUC may revoke permission for laboratory housing if the facility becomes unsuitable for continued housing of animals for any reason. Such reasons may include changes in regulations, non-compliance by research staff, deteriorating facilities, protocol termination, or if rationale is no longer valid.

11. Any changes to the rationale for housing in a laboratory must be approved by the IACUC before implementation.