Washington State University

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

ACCLIMATION AND STABILIZATION OF ANIMALS USED FOR RESEARCH OR TEACHING

A. Purpose

To clarify minimum acclimation periods for animals.

B. Principle

To ensure that new arrival animals are provided an adequate acclimation period to allow them to stabilize to their new environment.

C. Scope

This applies to all animals involved in teaching, testing, and research at WSU locations.

D. Policy Statement

All new arrival animals from off-campus are to be provided the minimum acclimation periods described in this policy.

E. Requirements

Listed below are the minimum acclimation periods for animals newly received at WSU. Adequate acclimation times vary depending on type of animal, source, method and length of transport to WSU and nature of research. Investigators are strongly encouraged to allow additional time for animals to stabilize to their new environment. Questions regarding acclimation can be directed to the Office of the Campus Veterinarian at 335-6246.

Exceptions to this policy must be described and justified on your Animal Subjects Approval Form and approved by the IACUC. Failure to allow animals to acclimatize properly could adversely impact animal health and research data.
F. Acclimation Periods

1. Rodent Species Acclimation period of three days (72 hours).

2. Non-Rodent Species Acclimation period of one week (7 days).

G. Exemptions

1. Euthanasia and tissue harvest is allowed on day of arrival for any species.

2. Nonsurvival surgery or other terminal nonsurvival procedures for any species are allowed on the day after arrival. However, the PI is advised to consider the effect that shipping stress may have on the experimental data and is recommended to allow the animal to acclimate for the recommended period.

3. Age/time-dependent procedures which require the use of neonatal chicks, calves, foals, lambs, kids and swine less than 10 days of age are allowed as soon as the day of arrival. However, the PI is advised to consider the effect that shipping stress may have on the experimental data and is recommended to allow the animal to acclimate for as long as possible.

4. For all species—Exceptions for the acclimation period can be approved by the IACUC Chair or Campus Vet on a case by case basis.

Approved by WSU-IACUC January 28, 2015