

Subject: Stabilization of Animals

Source: Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (OLAR),
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
Effective Date: 10/12/2020
Replaces: 01/17/2012
Applies to: Personnel involved in research or teaching studies involving
animals



Introduction

The University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus believes that the purpose of animal research is to contribute to the enhancement of human and animal health. Animal use is a privilege that requires close adherence to a clear and defined code of ethics to ensure all animals are treated as humanely and judiciously as possible

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to outline appropriate timelines for the stabilization of routine source laboratory animals. The length of time for stabilization will depend on the species involved and the intended use of the animals. The goal is to ensure animals are free of clinical illness and have acclimated to their environment for physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization prior to exposure to research procedures.

Stabilization

- USDA-Covered Species [Mammalian Species Excluding Laboratory Mice and Rats]:
 - Species covered by the USDA from any source **must** be acclimated for 3 to 5 days prior to the date of use.
 - Terminal procedures require a **minimum** of 3 full days (72 hours) acclimation time from the time of arrival to the time of anesthesia induction.
 - Survival procedures require a **minimum** of 5 full days (120 hours) from time of arrival to time of surgical anesthesia induction or initiation of non-terminal, experimental procedures.
- Laboratory Mice and Rats:
 - It is highly suggested to investigators that all species are given a minimum 5 to 7 day acclimation period to their new environment after arrival. UCDenver policy continues to allow for acute tissue harvest (non-surgical terminal procedures) of mice and rats prior to the 5 to 7 day recommended acclimation period.
- Stabilization time can be adjusted by the veterinary staff or if approved by the IACUC.

Per regulatory requirements, failure to comply with this policy may result in notification of your funding agency (e.g. NIH) and regulatory agencies (e.g. USDA) that your research has violated federal and/or local policies regarding the humane use of animals. Further, depending on the violation, you may be required to take additional training and/or your privilege to conduct animal research at CU Denver | Anschutz might be temporarily suspended or even completely revoked.