Policy # AW-03-2012

Policy Title: Acclimation of Newly Arrived Research and Teaching Animals

Policy: Following transport to a campus facility, rodents should be maintained in their home cages for at least 48 hours prior to experimental manipulation. This is considered to be a minimum amount of time to allow for a period of initial physiological, psychological, and nutritional acclimation. The length of time necessary for acclimation of other animals depends on the species involved, type and duration of transport, and intended use of the animals. The researcher, in collaboration with the AV or his/her delegate, should evaluate what acclimation time would be necessary and appropriate.

Animals may be excluded from coverage of this policy and utilized within 48 hours of arrival for the following reasons:

1. Animals are to undergo immediate terminal procedures, or;
2. PI provides justification explaining why acclimation is not necessary for their approved animal use, or;
3. The animals are wild-caught and will be returned to the wild after procedure. Acclimation is not advised in wild animals that will be released.

Exceptions to the policy are reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).