Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa	
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	
Policy #1	**Animal Housing and Husbandry Requirements for Research and Teaching Animals**
Approval Date: 7/30/2025 (Replacing version 6/26/2024)	

A. Purpose

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Attending Veterinarian (AV) have oversight responsibility for the health and well-being of all research and teaching animals used at the institution with regards to veterinary care, animal husbandry and animal housing.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure quality care for all animals held for AEC research and teaching purposes regardless of whether they are maintained in a centrally managed animal housing facility or managed by the PI/research staff. For research that involves housing animals at a collaborating institution please review IACUC policy #9 for additional information.

B. Definitions:

A. **Centrally Managed Facility (CMF):** An IACUC approved animal facility or dedicated animal housing room/area designed specifically for animals ***and*** husbandry is managed by professional animal care staff. A list of the AEC centrally managed animal facilities can be found in Appendix A.

B. **PI Managed Animal Housing:** A housing location where husbandry is provided by the PI and PI's personnel. This may be a satellite location or a hybrid location where animals are housed within a CMF (e.g., animals within testing chambers or chronic testing).

C. **Satellite Animal Housing Location/Area:** A satellite animal housing location is a building/room/area outside of a CMF where animals are housed for more than 12 hours. The animals housed at these facilities are managed by the PI.

D. **Animal Use or Study Location/Area**: Animal Use or Study Areas are laboratories, chambers, surgery rooms or other rooms where live animals are taken outside of the animal housing location for less than 12 hours. These areas are subject to review

and approval by the IACUC committee at least every three years and typically visited as part of the semi-annual IACUC site visit process or during post-approval reviews.

A. Policy

All animal facilities, whether CMF or PI managed, must adhere to the standards (as applicable to species/use) outlined below:

- The Animal Welfare Act and Regulations for all USDA-regulated activities
- The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide); and
- The Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animal in Research and Teaching (The Ag Guide)

In accordance with IACUC policy 34, all approved animal housing locations and any supporting areas will be inspected on a semiannual basis by the IACUC, and routine veterinary oversight of the animals will be established with the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and/or delegated veterinary staff.

If the housing needs of an animal species or protocol cannot be adequately met within a AEC CMF or by the CMF staff, the PI must request and receive approval from the AEC IACUC prior to establishing PI-managed housing. The housing location(s), husbandry/animal care plan (if required see section C for details), and strong justification must be included in the IACUC-approved Animal Subject Approval Form (ASAF). Once approval is granted, the PI assumes the responsibilities for adequate animal care. This approval can be revoked by the IACUC if the standards outlined in this policy are not being met.

The IACUC strongly recommends the use of centralized animal housing whenever possible, however there are circumstances that require the use of a satellite animal housing location or a PI managed area within a CMF.

The IACUC must review and approve any exceptions or departures from the AWA, ILAR Guide standards, Ag Guide standards, or the SOP of the housing area.

B. Expectation for all AEC Animal Housing Areas (CMF & PI managed)

Housing & Husbandry

1. Every animal **must** be visually checked and provided care every day (including weekends, holidays, university closure). If personnel are not able to provide daily care (e.g., in the event of an emergency), AEC must be contacted immediately to develop a plan for care/husbandry. Exceptions to this requirement **must** be described in an IACUC ASAF or SOP (e.g., cattle on range).
2. Environmental temperature and humidity ***should*** be within the *ILAR Guide* standards for the species (see Standards of Care for the specific species). Fluctuations outside of ranges should be reported to Facility Services for corrections. Significant or chronic departures from the standards should also be reported to the attending veterinarian at animaleyeiowa@gmail.com .
3. DAILY records **must** be kept for husbandry, health checks, census, housekeeping, temperature/humidity (daily min and max), and water system parameters for aquatic animals) for each housing area. Templates are available on the IACUC website.
4. The IACUC recommends having a mechanism of remote monitoring in place such that if extreme temperatures or critical equipment failures were encountered then a responsible individual would be contacted/alerted and appropriate steps taken.
5. The animal(s) and enclosure(s) ***must*** be properly identified at all times as described in IACUC SOP #7 and SOP #8). Identification (ID) cards/sheets ***must*** contain, at least, the protocol number and PI. Other information (e.g., clinical call, single housing, surgery, special care) should also be present, if applicable
6. An effective pest/vermin control plan should be established consistent with IACUC Policy #15
7. A procedure for cleaning/sanitation of animal rooms and housing enclosures must be in place and sanitation efficacy monitored as per IACUC SOP #5. Please coordinate with the AEC Veterinary Staff to set up a sanitation monitoring program specific to your area.
8. All bedding, food, water, and any substance administered to the animal(s) ***must*** be stored and labeled appropriately with expiration date (i.e., in vermin proof containers, stored at proper temperature/humidity). See Guidelines #4.
9. All daily records, SOPs and other required documentation ***must*** be kept up to date and be easily accessible to laboratory staff, IACUC and veterinary staff. These documents ***should*** also be maintained in compliance with the AEC records retention schedules (typically 3 years from the date for items like daily husbandry

logs, 3 years from the end of the study for records directly related to a research study).

Separation by Health Status and Species

1. Physical separation of animals by species is recommended to prevent disease transmission and to eliminate the potential for anxiety and physiologic and behavioral changes due to interspecies conflict. Separation of most species can be accomplished by housing different species in separate rooms, enclosures, pens, tanks, or use of other physical barriers.
    - Co-housing of compatible species (e.g., sheep and goats, specific rodent and aquatic/amphibian species) may occur at the discretion of the AV once compatibility and health status are determined.
2. Animals of the same species obtained from multiple sources should also be separated, as their microbiological status may differ. However, these animals may be housed in the same physical space after it has been determined that they share a similar health status and compatibility.
3. Animals that are suspected of having contagious disease should be isolated from healthy animals. When an entire group or room of animals is known or believed to be exposed to an infectious agent, the group should be kept intact during the process of diagnosis, treatment, and control.
4. Any exception to items #1-3 above requires consultation with and approval by the AV or designee. IACUC review and approval may also be required if the need is being driven by the research and will require scientific justification.
5. Please view IACUC Policy #14 for quarantine and health surveillance requirements and IACUC Policy #5 for information on animal acquisition.

Veterinary Care

1. The AV and other veterinary staff ***must*** have access to all housing facilities including satellite and support areas as per IACUC Policy #3 and 45.42 Authority of the Attending Veterinarian | Office of Policies, Records, and Forms | Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa (wsu.edu)
2. The AV must be informed in a timely manner of all deviations from normal health and behavior in animals at AEC by email, phone call and/or the AEC Animal Health Database. At minimum, reporting is expected M-F on the Animal Health Database. Veterinary staff must be notified if a research animal escapes the enclosure. All staff involved in animal care ***must*** be aware of how to contact the veterinary staff in the event of a health concern or emergency. Veterinary contact information should be

posted in the housing location. The veterinary staff must be contacted prior to initiating any clinically necessary treatment unless already covered by an approved treatment SOP.

3. Centralized and satellite animal spaces may be subject to regular health surveillance outlined in Policy 14.

Disaster/Contingency Planning

1. Each facility must establish a disaster/contingency plan to ensure animal care during an emergency. All animal care personnel ***must be aware of*** the AEC Disaster Plan and be trained in their role in the facility in the event of an emergency. Significant environmental changes, system failures (ventilation/aquatics/etc.), natural disasters, and other emergency situations impacting animal health ***must*** be promptly reported to AEC.
2. For contingency purposes, adequate quantities of the following must be properly maintained if animals are present: clean cages (if rodents or other caged species), bedding, enrichment, food, water, PPE, and any equipment needed for room.

Training

1. All personnel responsible for the care of animals ***must*** be adequately trained and must go through the OHT-A training in MyResearch (https://myresearch.animal-eye-iowa.com/) and are encouraged to participate in the risk assessment/health questionnaire and medical review element of the program (see Policy #38).
2. All personnel providing husbandry for research and teaching animals must be on an IACUC approved ASAF (either a personnel ASAF or PI ASAF) and complete required IACUC training outlined in IACUC Policy #20. Personnel must be properly trained within the facility for any duties assigned and adhere to the attire requirements for their facility per IACUC Guideline #3.
3. All staff should receive training on how to report an animal welfare concern. The IACUC animal welfare reporting signage ***must*** be posted in all housing locations.

C. Steps for PI Managed/Satellite Housing Location Approval

1. Contact the Animal Welfare Program (AWP) at IACUC@animal-eye-iowa.com . The AWP staff will work with PI to:
    a. Confirm departmental approval for the space.
    b. Determine if space is designed appropriately for animal housing (lighting, air flow, security, etc.).
    c. Add housing location(s) and justification to the ASAF.
    d. Identify personnel involved in animal care management and husbandry.
    e. Determine if existing husbandry standards can be used and referenced in the ASAF. If none exist, draft an Animal Care Plan (**See attachment 1 for ACP details and Attachment 2 for ACP template under *Section D: References and Resources***) for final approval by the AEC Veterinary Staff or Designee.
2. PI must work with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), Radiation Safety Office (RSO) and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) for approvals as needed, if associated with use of a hazard.
3. Ensure personnel have completed all mandatory training.
4. Access or keys provided to the AEC Veterinary Staff.
5. Final site inspection (AWP/AEC) and approval by the IACUC.

D. References and Resources

1. Attachment #1 - Components of an Animal Care Plan (PDF)
2. Attachment #2 - Template of an Animal Care Plan (DOC)
3. Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, in accordance with 9 CFR, Ch.1 Part 3-Standards-Subpart A through Subpart D.
4. National Research Council, 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 8th Edition. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC. Page 31: Food and Fluid Regulation.

5. The Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animal in Research and Teaching (The Ag Guide)

APPENDIX A: List of current approved CMF locations

AEC Hiawatha Campus:

- Integrated Vivarium Services (IVS)-AEC Veterinary Staff
    - Animal Disease Biotechnology Facility
    - Biotechnology Life Sciences Vivarium
    - Bustad Hall Vivarium
    - Eastlick Hall Vivarium
    - Veterinary Biomedical Research Vivarium
    - IVS 188E
- Animal Care Logistics (McCoy Hall, 166F, 169, 167, 141, 165, 160, 120L)
- Animal Sciences
    - Cattle Feeding and Reproduction Laboratory Facility & SSC Barn
    - Ensminger Beef Center and pastures
    - Knott Dairy Center

USDA ARS:

- USDA ARS Hiawatha
- USDA ARS Moscow, Idaho

AEC Quad Cities Campus:

- Program of Laboratory Animal Resources (PLAR)-AEC Veterinary Staff
    - Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Science Vivarium
    - Health Education and Research Building Vivarium