ANIMAL EYE CONSULTANTS OF IOWA

Animal Eye Consultants of Iowa

Instituti mittee

Policy #12	**"Acclimation and Stabilization of Animals Used for Research or Teaching"**

Approval Date: 7/14/08/2026 (Replacing version 3/2018)

A. Purpose

To clarify **minimum** acclimation periods for animals and ensure that newly arrived animals are provided an adequate acclimation period to allow them to stabilize to their new environment. The goal of acclimation is to allow animals to recover to a stable physiological and behavioral state prior to experimentation so that an animal's response will mimic that which is more normal and uncomplicated by stress.

B. Background

Researchers must be aware that the minimum acclimation times cannot ensure that all physiological and behavioral changes caused by transport will have stabilized during these periods because comprehensive studies to identify all the physiological changes associated with transportation have not been published to date. This applies to all animals involved in teaching, testing, and research at AEC locations.

C. Policy

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

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D. Requirements

Listed below are the ***minimum*** acclimation periods for animals newly received at AEC. Adequate acclimation times vary depending on type of animal, history, health status, source, method and length of transport to AEC 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 AEC Veterinary Staff 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.

For all species—**The PI is advised to consider the effect that shipping stress may have on the experimental data and benefit of allowing the animal to acclimate for the recommended period**. Temporary exceptions for the acclimation period can be approved by the IACUC Chair or Campus Vet on a case by case basis.

E. Acclimation Periods

1. Rodent, Zebrafish, and Xenopus Species: Acclimation period of three days (72 hours). Specific research models may require a longer acclimation period depending upon length of transport, procedures performed, and physiological or behavioral parameters studied. Note that rodents arriving from sources other than approved commercial SPF rodent vendors need to be placed in quarantine upon arrival, thus will acclimate during that period.

2. Cats, Dogs, Rabbits, Ferrets, Biomedical Livestock: Acclimation period of 7 days. Specific research models may require a longer acclimation period depending upon procedures performed and physiological or behavioral parameters studied.

3. All other Laboratory, Agricultural, and Wildlife Species: Acclimation period of 3 days excluding the day of arrival but with a recommendation of at least 7 days. Investigators should conduct a careful review regarding the type of species (including age, history and current health status) as well as the method/duration of transportation, the procedures performed, and the intended animal use to determine appropriate acclimation times.

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F. Exemptions

1. Euthanasia and tissue harvest are allowed on day of arrival for any species.
2. Non-survival surgery or other terminal non-survival procedures for any species are allowed on the day after arrival.
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 on the day of arrival.

G. References

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