

**University of Cincinnati
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

Requirements for Ectothermic Satellite Housing

These requirements accompany IACUC Policy #012 regarding housing animals in laboratories and provides guidance based on the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th edition)*. Unless other arrangements have been made, the Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring the care and maintenance of all ectothermic species, as delegated by LAMS. The PI must provide specific-lab training for personnel working with these species.

The variety of needs for fish and aquatic or semiaquatic reptiles and amphibians is as diverse as the number of species considered.¹ Substances, conditions and practices commonly used in the care of mammals may harm ectothermic species. Particular consideration should be given to the housing systems used and the methods for maintaining the ectothermic environment.¹

A written, description of husbandry procedures must be approved by LAMS and posted in the appropriate housing area. Husbandry procedures must follow the *Guide's* requirements and the description must include the items outlined below:

- 1) Task Schedule
 - Frequency of tasks performed including record maintenance (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, annually, and as needed)

- 2) Feeding
 - Type of food, method of preparation and vendors, as applicable
 - Amount, frequency, and method of feeding

- 3) Environment
 - Room temperature and humidity ranges
 - Water quality parameters (e.g. temperature, pH, water flow, conductivity, nitrogen waste products, etc.)
 - Acceptable ranges
 - Method of testing and frequency of monitoring
 - Type of enrichment, substrate, and the amount of substrate (e.g. gravel, peat moss, etc.)

- 4) Housing
 - Housing density (e.g. individual or group; indicate the number of individuals per group)
 - Type of housing (e.g. tank or cage)
 - Type of life support system for aquatic
 - Water system (e.g. circulation type; static, flow-through, recirculating)

- Water source (e.g. RO, distilled water, charcoal-filtered municipal water, etc.)
- Filtration (e.g. biological, chemical, mechanical, mechanical-bead filter, etc.)
- Size of the biofilter (e.g. manufacturer, surface area, size, etc.)
- Chemicals routinely added to the water (e.g. removal of chlorine/chloramines)

5) Animal Handling

- Methods for capturing animals
- If nets are used, describe how they are sanitized

6) Receiving

- Receiving and unpacking procedures

7) Sanitization

- Macroenvironment (housing room)
 - Methods for cleaning (e.g. steam, fogging, hand wash, etc.)
 - Frequency of cleaning
 - Types of cleaning agents used
- Microenvironment (animal enclosure)
 - Methods for cleaning (e.g. hand wash, cage wash, etc.)
 - Frequency of cleaning
 - Types of cleaning agents used

Records must be maintained for all tasks performed including feeding, environmental parameters, housing parameters, and husbandry.

References:

1. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition, page 77-151.