

University of Cincinnati Animal Care and Use Program

Husbandry Exceptions

The [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) states that “an appropriate program provides environments, housing and management that are well suited for the species or strains of animals maintained and takes into account their physical, physiologic, and behavioral needs.”

The living conditions of animals should be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. Normally, the housing, feeding, and care of all animals used for biomedical purposes must be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied (Public Health Service [PHS] Policy [IV, C, 1.d.]).

Questions - contact LAMS Husbandry staff at 513-558-5171 or lams-husbandry@uc.edu

Definitions

Husbandry exception: Any change/deviation from an animal’s standard living conditions/LAMS standard operating procedures.

Exception types:

1. Altered Light Cycle Duration (outside the standard 7am-7pm light/dark cycle)
2. Altered Room Temperature (outside the standard temps described in the *Guide*)
3. Enrichment Policy Waiver (outside [ACUP Policy 102](#))
4. Medicated Water
5. Non-Standard Caging (such as metabolic caging)
6. Observation Frequency
7. Other (e.g. do not disturb, acclimation waiver – less than 48 hour after arrival, variation in weaning – outside the standard 24 days)
8. Sanitation Frequency
9. Social Housing Policy Waiver (single housing)
10. Solid bottom cage, no bedding
11. Special Diet
12. Wire Bottom

Environmental enrichment: Used to enhance physical and psychological well-being and to promote species-typical behavior in all laboratory animals LAMS provides enrichment to all animals according to the [ACUP Standard Animal Enrichment guidelines](#).

Social housing: The *Guide* states that social animals should be housed in stable pairs or groups of compatible individuals unless they must be housed alone for experimental reasons or behavioral incompatibility.

How to Request a Husbandry Exception

If research requires a husbandry exception, the following steps are required:

Step 1: Submit the appropriate documentation for IACUC approval.

The exception should be described in Identify Husbandry Exceptions question of each associated experiment(s) within the protocol. It may be added during a new protocol submission or via an amendment and must include:

- a. A description of the exception including duration and frequency
- b. The scientific justification for the husbandry exception

Step 2: Notify LAMS Management prior to the Husbandry exception.

- a. Upon IACUC approval, submit a [LAMS Husbandry Service Request](#) detailing the exception(s).
- b. LAMS Management verifies and approves service request.

Step 3: Identify cages. Research staff must label applicable cages with the Husbandry exception. (e.g. "NO ENRICHMENT", "SPECIFIC ENRICHMENT" "SINGLE HOUSING")

- a. Entire shelving unit can be labeled if it includes all animals on the rack.
- b. LAMS Husbandry will provide the research staff with labels/stickers upon request and approval of service request.