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 staff at 513-558-5174 or LAMS@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
2. Altered Room Temperature
3. Enrichment Policy Waiver
4. Medicated Water
5. Non-Standard Caging
6. Observation Frequency
7. Other (e.g. Do not disturb, acclimation waiver, variation in weaning)
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: Allowed/Recommended Environmental Enrichment

**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:

1. **Step 1**: Submit the appropriate documentation for IACUC approval
   a. A description of the exception including duration
   b. The scientific justification for the husbandry exception
   c. The period(s) in which enrichment is withheld or single housing is required
**Paper Protocol Template:** Amendments to paper protocols only.

a. Update the paper protocol with the details of the requested exception.

b. If appropriate, complete and submit Request for Exception to IACUC Policy/Regulations.

c. If appropriate, complete and submit Addendum A: Withholding Enrichment or Single Housing to the IACUC.

**RAP Protocol Template:** For all electronic protocols. This can only be completed during creation of the protocol or through an electronic submission of an amendment.

Complete Q11.Identify Husbandry Exceptions under Experimental Section of the RAP Protocol.

2. **Step 2:** Notify LAMS Management prior to the Husbandry exception:
   a. Upon IACUC approval, submit a [LAMS Husbandry Service Request](#).
   b. LAMS Management verifies and approves service request

3. **Step 3:** Identify cages: Research staff must label applicable cages with the Husbandry exception. e.g. "NO ENRICHMENT", "SPECIFIC ENRICHMENT", "SINGLE HOUSING". Shelving unit can be labeled if it includes all animals on the rack.