

CONFIDENTIAL**ACCLIMATION AND USE OF ANIMALS IN PROCEDURE ROOMS WITHIN NUS****1 Policy statements**

IACUC requires:

1. a stabilization period for all animals arriving at the university prior to experimental manipulations.
2. all housing and experimental procedures to be performed within the NUS Animal Facilities.

Exceptions to the above requirements must be reviewed and approved by IACUC.

2 Definitions

Animal	All live fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, non-human mammals and cephalopods
Approved Protocol	Any project that involves the use of any animal for any scientific purpose and that is approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
NUS Animal Facilities	Facilities approved by the NParks Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS) for keeping animals for more than 24 hours. It includes CM managed facilities and all other satellite facilities such as DBS fish facility, the St John's Island National Marine Laboratory (SJINML) Animal Research Aquarium (ARA) and the Animal Biosafety Level 3 (ABSL-3) within BSL-3 Core Facility, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)	The Committee, constituted by an institution, responsible for the oversight and evaluation of all aspects of the institution's animal care and use programme.
Procedure Rooms	Procedure rooms outside NUS Animal Facilities where animals undergo any procedure and/or are held for less than 24 hours.
Protocol	A written description of a project put forward by a PI for review by the IACUC.
Scientific Purposes	Any purpose for which activities (including breeding of animals integral to a research or teaching project) are performed for the acquisition, development or demonstration of knowledge or techniques in any scientific discipline, including the purpose of research, teaching, diagnosis, field trials, product testing, production of biological products and environmental studies.

3 Scope

This policy applies to all use of animals for scientific purposes within NUS.

Please refer to Policy [P106 "Animal Use Location and IACUC Review Requirement"](#) for offsite animal use.

4 Guidelines

4.1 Acclimation requirements

- 4.1.1 Animals transported from outside the institution may experience mild to moderate stress. This stress results from perturbations in the environment, temperature fluctuations during transportation, short-term food and water deprivation, noise or other physical aspects of shipping.
- 4.1.2 Elevated serum corticosteroid concentration (one method of measuring stress) is often seen following transportation, and a return to normal corticosteroid levels can be used to establish a period of acclimatization.
- 4.1.3 It is recommended that newly received animals be given a period of physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization before their use. The need for stabilization period has been demonstrated in mice, rats and guinea pigs.
- 4.1.4 The length of time for stabilization will depend on the type and duration of animal transportation, the species involved, and the intended use of the animals. As a minimum, rodents that do not require quarantine must be held for 3 full days (72 hours). Non-rodent animals without quarantine requirements require at least 5 full days to assess their condition and allow them to acclimatize to their new environment. Please refer to [CM SOP 615 Acclimatization of Laboratory Animals](#) for more details.
- 4.1.5 Depending on the source the animals are obtained, additional quarantine period might apply.
- 4.1.6 Animals intended for terminal tissue harvesting are not required to acclimatise and may be euthanised on the day of arrival. The PI should assess the potential impact of stress on experimental outcomes and ensure all study requirements are appropriately addressed.
- 4.1.7 Any protocol-specific deviation from the stated minimum period for animals to acclimatise must be scientifically justified and approved by the NUS IACUC.

4.2 IACUC approved procedure rooms

- 4.2.1 All animals that are subject to the regulations covered in the Animal & Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules should be housed in NUS Animal Facilities and all procedures performed on these animals should be carried out in procedure areas and surgical suites maintained within the facilities.
- 4.2.2 Whenever not possible, scientific justification including (but not limited to) advanced instrumentation that cannot be transported from the investigator's laboratory or the lack of adequate housing or procedure areas within NUS Animal Facilities, should be provided for IACUC's consideration and decision.
- 4.2.3 Requests must include descriptions of the procedure room, routine animal care and health monitoring activities, as well as any surgical procedures including pre and post-operative care plans with anesthesia and analgesia, in sufficient detail for CM veterinary staff and the IACUC to assure adequate animal care.

4.2.4 All IACUC approved procedure rooms will be inspected:

1. annually by the IACUC; and
2. by AVS for licensing purpose

5 References

1. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. National Research Council, 2011.](#)
2. [Guidelines on the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. National Advisory Committee for Laboratory Animal Research. 2004](#)
3. [Animals and Birds \(Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes\) Rules 2004](#)

6 Related documents/SOPs

1. [P106 Animal Use Location and IACUC Review Requirement](#)
2. [CM SOP 615 Acclimatization of Laboratory Animals](#)

Revision

Created

P100.01. Reviewed to:

1. ensure policies are in compliance with the NAELAR Guidelines 2022 and the updated Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules 2004; and
2. up-to-date with current practices

Changes made to update "CM supervised facilities" to "NUS licensed facilities"

P100.02. Reviewed to:

1. update policy title and format.
2. revised wordings to align *CM SOP 615 Acclimatization of Laboratory Animals* and IACUC requirements.
3. add inspection requirement for IACUC approved procedure rooms.
4. reworded sections for clarity.

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