



University of Maryland College Park Animal Care and Use Standard

Invertebrate Species

Purpose: This standard describes the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee's (IACUC's) position and expectations for the use of invertebrate species.

Background: Invertebrate species are used in university research and teaching programs. These species are currently unregulated by the Animal Welfare Regulations and are not covered under the PHS *Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* or the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. However, under the AAALAC Int'l Rules of Accreditation, invertebrate species relevant to the unit's mission are included as part of the unit's program and may be evaluated by the AAALAC site visit team. Site visit teams will generally not review activities involving lower level invertebrates such as zooplankton or insects, but will review activities with higher level invertebrates such as cephalopods.

Standards: The IACUC and the University expect everyone (researchers, instructors, students, etc.) involved with using invertebrate species in research or teaching programs to provide proper husbandry, housing and physical plant provisions, and to handle them appropriately and humanely according to their species needs. Additionally, all personnel should be trained in proper housing and handling, and occupational health and safety risks (e.g., GFI circuits, zoonotic diseases, containment, etc.) should be addressed.

At this time, invertebrate species use does not require a protocol and the IACUC does not provide animal use oversight. However, standard operating procedures and guidelines should be in place to address the considerations listed above.