



University of Maryland College Park Animal Care and Use Standard

IACUC Oversight of Animal Facilities

Purpose: This document describes the animal facility oversight/inspection schedule as currently implemented at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD).

Background: Institutions are responsible for oversight of all animal-related activities regardless of how long or where the activity occurs. This includes centrally-managed and Principal Investigator (PI)-managed animal housing areas as well as other animal facilities/areas. The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the Animal Welfare Regulations stipulate that the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must inspect, at least once every six months, all animal facilities including housing areas, transport vehicles, study areas, satellite facilities, and areas where any form of surgical manipulations (minor, major, survival, non-survival) are performed. Other animal activity areas should be inspected by the committee at regular intervals (i.e., annually) to effectively oversee activities.

Definitions:

1. *Animal Facility*- Any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for animal confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments inclusive of surgical manipulation.
2. *Satellite Facility*- Any containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 24 hours.
3. *Study Area*- Any building room, area, enclosure, or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 12 hours.
4. *Centrally-managed Animal Housing Area (CMHA)*- An IACUC-approved and inspected animal housing area managed by core professional animal care staff.
5. *PI-Managed Animal Housing Area (PMHA)*- An IACUC-approved and inspected animal housing area that is independently-operated, and that may occupy a space outside of a central facility (i.e., a satellite facility), OR a confined space within a centrally-managed facility (e.g., a single room in a rodent facility). In such housing areas, animal monitoring, daily animal care, vivarium husbandry, and related animal facility and administrative/documentation tasks are performed solely by the PI and research staff and are not overseen or performed by core professional animal care staff.

Standards:

1. Animal facilities are identified in the animal study protocol. Areas not previously approved as animal facilities are evaluated by the University Attending Veterinarian (UAV)/delegate or an IACUC subcommittee and approved by the IACUC.
2. The following areas must be inspected *semiannually* by at least *two* members of the IACUC:
 - Central and PI-managed animal housing areas

- Other animal facilities;
 - Study areas;
 - Satellite facilities; and
 - Animal activity areas (including laboratories) where animals, regardless of length of stay, are anesthetized and recover, or are surgically manipulated while under general anesthesia and then euthanized. (Examples include spaces where blood collection under general anesthesia, perfusion, etc., are performed.)
3. The following areas must be inspected at least *annually* by at least *one* member of the IACUC:
- Animal activity areas (including laboratories) where live animals are held for less than 12 hours; and
 - Animal activity areas (including laboratories) where animals are euthanized.
4. The following do not require inspections by the IACUC:
- Areas where only carcasses or tissues are manipulated or stored, i.e., animals are euthanized elsewhere.

Methodology:

1. The IACUC procedures for conducting semiannual facility inspections are as follows:
- Animal activity areas are visited and reviewed on the schedule defined above, generally in April and October.
 - While the IACUC may visit any animal facility at any time, the semi-annual inspections are normally scheduled in advance with the facility manager or PI to ensure personnel are available to address questions or concerns during the inspection.
 - All IACUC members participate in the inspection process and may be accompanied by a member of Environmental Safety (ESSR) and/or Facilities Management.
 - Training and enrollment in the Animal Handler Program through Occupational Health will be reviewed for all users.
2. The UMD IACUC uses the following reference documents as standards for evaluation:
- *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NRC, 2011 or most current version)*;
 - *The Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide) (ASAS, 2020)*;
 - *Guidelines for the Care and Use of Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Research (NRC, 2003)*;
 - *The AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals (2020 or most current version)*;
 - Other appropriate taxon-specific guidelines and recommendations for aquatics and wildlife species.

References:

1. UMD [IACUC Standard D.8. Principal Investigator-Managed Animal Housing Areas](#).
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