

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1- To describe safe procedures for animal reception at large animal research unit (LARU).

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1- It is the responsibility of the principal investigator (PI) or his delegate to provide an accurate description, quantity, weight, sex, and date of arrival of incoming animals.
- 2.2- Technical personnel are responsible for ensuring that all animals are examined, counted, and placed into appropriate holding areas (pens).
- 2.3- The technician staff on duty is responsible for contacting the PI in the event of problems.

3. MATERIALS

- Holders

4. PROCEDURES

4.1- RECEIVING:

- 4.1.1- Incoming animals must be examined to ensure they are in good health and match the description on the purchase order.
- 4.1.2- Animals must arrive at the facility 24 hours (from internal sources) or 7 days (from external sources) prior to the scheduled start of the study to complete regulation on receiving and acclimation periods and undergo pre-experimental evaluation.
- 4.1.3- All large animals are received at the LARU loading door.
- 4.1.4- Animals are transported according to the conditions listed below (Transporting). A preliminary health check is performed for obvious, clinical signs of ill health (not related to stress of transport). Animals are checked for:
- a. alertness (depressed, laying down, non- responsive to surroundings)
 - b. abnormal feces (diarrhea)
 - c. abnormal respiratory system (coughing, troubled breathing, nasal discharge)
 - d. lack of appetite (anorexia)
 - e. overall body condition (muscle atrophy, limping, etc.)
 - f. general attitude
- 4.1.5- Should any overt symptoms of illness, or characteristics making the animal unacceptable for the experiment be noted on the initial examination, the animal may be refused and sent back to the supplier.
- 4.1.6- Calves are brought directly into the holding pen.
- 4.1.7- Supplier must be instructed to administer a preventative dose of long acting antibiotic (e.g. Draxxin) within 24h prior to shipment. If for some reason it was not done or there are doubts it should be administered at arrival.
- 4.1.8- Also at arrival, all animals are treated with a preventative antiparasite (internal and external) such as Ivermectin at manufacturer's recommended dose.

4.2- HOUSING:

- 4.2.1- Upon arrival at LARU, the animal number and “girth measurement”/ weight are recorded.
- 4.2.2- Large holding pen is prepared (food, water and bedding) in advance.
- 4.2.3- The animals are placed in the holding pen (group housing).
- 4.2.4- The technician performs a more thorough health examination at this time.
- 4.2.5- Animal information cards are completed and kept on file by the technician on duty. The following information must be included:
 - a. Principal Investigator
 - b. Protocol number and Expiry date
 - c. Date of arrival
 - d. Animal I.D.
 - e. Breed or strain of animal
 - f. Sex

5. RELATED SOPs

- 5.1- Animal Transport - LARU #4