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**1. PURPOSE**

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The intent of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe limitations to keeping animals for extended periods of time.

**2. RESPONSIBILITY**

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Facility Animal Care Committees (FACCs), principal investigators (PIs) and their research staff, veterinary and animal care staff.

**3. PROCEDURES**

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**3.1. Protocol review by FACC:**

3.1.1. When reviewing an Animal Use Protocol (AUP), the FACC evaluates the procurement and disposition of animals and the duration of the experiment, and determines if animals can be transferred from, or to, another protocol, or kept on experiment for the specified duration based on:

- 3.1.1.1. Procedures conducted or to be performed
- 3.1.1.2. Input from the facility veterinarian
- 3.1.1.3. Guidelines presented in this policy

**3.2. Inactive animals:**

3.2.1. Definition: animals that have been received but are not yet being used for research or teaching; animals in-between experimentations or teaching.

3.2.2. Limitation (unless specified and approved in the AUP or SOP):

- 3.2.2.1. Rodents: 1 month
- 3.2.2.2. Rabbits: 3 months in a pen; 1 month in a cage.
- 3.2.2.3. Dogs: 1 month
- 3.2.2.4. NHPs: 6 months

3.2.3. Exclusion: animals held for aging or during quarantine period.

3.2.4. Prolongation: a prolongation of housing can be granted by the facility veterinarian upon appropriate justification by the PI.

**3.3. Active animals (unless specified and approved in the AUP or SOP):**

3.3.1. Definition: animals that are under experimentation or used for teaching

3.3.2. Limitation:

- 3.3.2.1. Rodents: 10 months
- 3.3.2.2. Rabbits: 9 months
- 3.3.2.3. Dogs: 12 months
- 3.3.2.4. NHPs: 3 years

3.3.3. Prolongation: a prolongation of housing can be granted by the facility veterinarian upon appropriate justification by the Principal Investigator.

**3.4. Breeders:**

3.4.1. Breeders are kept for the duration of their fertile period.

3.5. Animals participating to successive protocols:

3.5.1. Definition: animals undergoing successive protocol after holding period.

3.5.2. Procedure: The facility veterinarian, in consultation with the PI, will assess the condition of the animal and based on previous protocol(s), will determine if it can be submitted to the proposed protocol. The veterinarian will determine the frequency of the next evaluations based on the age, or the physical and behavioral condition of the animal (e.g., aging animals may require more frequent evaluations).

3.6. Documentation:

3.6.1. Document successive protocols in the medical record.

3.6.2. Document veterinary evaluation and recommendation in the medical record.