

Institutional Animal Care Program (IACP)	
Title: Acclimation & Stabilization of Newly-Received Research Animals	
Policy number IACP 023	Date in Effect: 04/10/12
Revision 3	Revision Date: 06/13/25
In Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescinded <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Rescinded:

A) RESPONSIBILITIES

All employees of UT San Antonio (UTSA) and visiting scholars at UTSA using animals in research are responsible for following this policy. If an exception is needed by an employee or visiting scholar it is the responsibility of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to review for approval such requests for an exception to this policy.

B) BACKGROUND

The 2011 Guide for the Care & Use of Animals states, "... newly-received animals should be given a period for physiologic, behavioral, and nutritional acclimation before their use... The need for an acclimation period has been demonstrated in mice, rats, guinea pigs, nonhuman primates, and goats, and time for acclimation is likely important for other species as well." Conour et al (2006) stated, "Failure to plan for acclimation and stabilization of the animals may result in a need for increased animal numbers to determine statistically significant differences in experimental results and may place collected data at risk for inaccuracy and irreproducibility (Furudate et al. 2005)."

C) APPLICATION

This policy applies to research protocols and not those for teaching, demonstration or other purposes.



D) DEFINITIONS

Acclimation Period – Period of time by which newly-shipped animals are given a rest period for physiological, psychological, and nutritional stabilization before their use in research projects. This allows animals to recover from shipping stress and permits them to adapt to their new surroundings.

E) PROCEDURES

- 1) Based on the Guide's requirements and the references listed in this policy, UTSA's IACUC requires a minimum of a 3-day acclimation period for all newly inter-institutionally transported animals. Certain models and research projects may require longer acclimation times. Please consult the Veterinarian for acclimation times. Investigators are encouraged to consider such factors to meet their specific research needs.
- 2) Animals may not be used for research purposes until completion of the acclimation period. Animals for training purpose only are exempt from this policy and may be used without the need for acclimation.
- 3) Exceptions to this policy must be justified in the IACUC protocol.
- 4) Urgent requests to use animals before completion of the 3-day acclimation period must be requested in writing with justification to the IACUC Chair or University Veterinarian.

F) REFERENCES

- 1) Institute of Laboratory Resources Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 2011:111.
- 2) Capitanio JP, Kyes RC, Fairbanks LA. 2006. Considerations in the selection and conditioning of Old World monkeys for laboratory research: Animals from domestic sources. *ILAR J* 47:294-306.



- 3) Conour LA, Murray KA, Brown MJ. 2006. Preparation of animals for research: Issues to consider for rodents and rabbits. *ILAR J* 47:283-293.
- 4) Kagira JM, Ngotho M, Thuita JK, Maina NW, Hau J. 2007. Hematological changes in vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops*) during eight months' adaptation to captivity. *Am J Primatol* 69:1053-1063.
- 5) Landi MS, Kreider JW, Lang CM, Bullock LP. 1982. Effects of shipping on the immune function in mice. *Am J Vet Res* 43:1654-1657.
- 6) Obernier JA, Baldwin RL. 2006. Establishing an appropriate period of acclimatization following transportation of laboratory animals. *ILAR J* 47:364-369.
- 7) Prasad SB, Gatmaitan R, O'Connell RC. 1978. Effect of a conditioning method on general safety test in guinea pigs. *Lab Anim Sci* 28:591-593.
- 8) Sanhoury AA, Jones RS, Dobson H. 1989. The effects of different types of transportation on plasma cortisol and testosterone concentrations in male goats. *Br Vet J* 145:446-450.
- 9) Tuli JS, Smith JA, Morton DB. 1995. Stress measurements in mice after transportation. *Lab Anim* 29:132-138.