Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Standard Operating Procedure

SEPARATION OF ANIMALS

1. Purpose

The purpose is to describe recommendations for the physical separation of animals by species, source, and health status, as described in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition.

2. Scope

This SOP is applicable to all ISU staff, research investigators, and technicians who provide care and/or use animals for teaching or research.

3. General Requirements

All ISU staff, research investigators, and technicians who provide care and/or use animals for teaching or research must be familiar with and observe this SOP.

4. Procedure

A. Physical separation of animals by species is recommended to prevent interspecies disease transmission and to eliminate the potential for anxiety and physiologic and behavioral changes due to interspecies conflict (Arndt et al. 2010, The Guide).

B. Separation should usually be accomplished by housing different species in separate rooms, but, in some instances, it may be possible with cubicles, laminar flow units, cages that have filtered air or separate ventilation, or isolators.

C. It may also be acceptable to house different species in the same room—for example, two species that have a similar pathogen status and are behaviorally compatible (Pritchett-Corning et al. 2009, The Guide), or aquatic species.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roles</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISU IACUC</td>
<td>• Review IACUC protocols for the separation of animals based on species, source, and health status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Caretakers</td>
<td>• Follow the procedure in this SOP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Definitions

n/a
7. Appendices
n/a

8. Forms and Templates
n/a

9. References

*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition*


Pritchett-Corning KR, Chang FT, Festing MF. Breeding and housing laboratory rats and mice in the same room does not affect the growth or reproduction of either species. JAALAS. 2009; 48:492–498.

10. Contact Information

IACUC will be the contact most frequently used for IACUC SOPs. The following statement can be used in this case: Direct questions about this document to: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Iowa State University, 515-294-9581, iacuc@iastate.edu.

The Attending Veterinarian will often be the contact: Dr. Mary Sauer, 515-294-0266, msauer@iastate.edu.

LAR Medical may be the contact. The following statement can be used in this case: Direct questions about this document to: LAR Medical, Laboratory Animal Resources, Iowa State University, 515-294-8507, larmedical@iastate.edu.