***Guide* Exceptions List**

## About the List

The *Guide* Exceptions List is provided to assist the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in identifying IACUC-approved departures from the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition (*[*Guide*](https://olaw.nih.gov/sites/default/files/Guide-for-the-Care-and-Use-of-Laboratory-Animals.pdf)*).* The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals ([Policy](https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/phs-policy.htm)), [IV.B.3](https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/phs-policy.htm#FunctionsoftheInstitutionalAnimalCareandUseCommittee)., requires that the IACUC prepare reports of their semiannual program reviews and animal facility inspections and submit the reports to the Institutional Official (IO). Among other items, the reports must:

* contain a description of the nature and extent of the institution's adherence to the *Guide* and the PHS Policy,
* identify specifically any departures from the provisions of the *Guide* and the PHS Policy, and

state the reasons for each departure.

The provisions of the *Guide* are stated in terms of standards that **must** be met, standards that **should** be met, and standards that **may** be met. In addition, the *Guide* establishes exceptions in specific situations. These exceptions are **not** departures from the *Guide*.

## How to use the List

This list is a tool to assist the IACUC in identifying exceptions from the *Guide*. IACUCs are not required to use this list but are encouraged to amend it as necessary to reflect institutional programs and needs, or to develop their own list.

The list does not replace the *Guide* but should be utilized in conjunction with the *Guide.* Relevant references and *Guide* pages are noted.

## Questions or comments? Suggestions or comments should be e-mailed to: olaw@mail.nih.gov.

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| Page 20 | Outer garments worn in the animal rooms should not be worn outside the animal facility **unless** covered (NRC 1997). |
| Page 23-24 | Response to such reports should include communication of findings to the concerned employee(s), **unless** such concerns are reported anonymously; corrective actions if deemed necessary; and a report to the IO of the issue, findings, and actions taken should be documented. |
| Page 29 | Prolonged restraint, including chairing of nonhuman primates, should be avoided **unless** it is essential for achieving research objectives and is specifically approved by the IACUC (NRC 2003b). |
| Page 50 | Radios, alarms, and other sound generators should not be used in animal rooms **unless** they are part of an approved protocol or enrichment program. |
| Page 51 | Social animals should be housed in stable pairs or groups of compatible individuals **unless** they must be housed alone for experimental reasons or because of social incompatibility (see also section on Behavioral and Social Management). |
| Page 63 | Animals maintained in a laboratory environment are generally restricted in their activities compared to free-ranging animals. Forced activity for reasons **other than** attempts to meet therapeutic or approved protocol objectives should be avoided. |
| Page 64 | Single housing of social species should be the **exception** and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being. |
| Page 65 | Animals should be fed palatable, uncontaminated diets that meet their nutritional and behavioral needs at least daily, or according to their particular requirements, **unless** the protocol in which they are being used requires otherwise. |
| Page 116 | **Unless** an exception is specifically justified as an essential component of the research protocol and approved by the IACUC, aseptic surgery should be conducted in dedicated facilities or spaces. |
| Page 120 | The U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training (see Appendix B) state that in general, **unless** the con­trary is known or established, it should be considered that procedures that cause pain in humans may also cause pain in other animals (IRAC 1985). |
| Page 123 | **Unless** a deviation is justified for scientific or medical reasons, methods should be consistent with the *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia* (AVMA 2007 or later editions). |
| Page 137 | For safety, doors should open into animal rooms; **if it is necessary that they open toward a corridor, there should be a recessed vestibule**. |
| Page 139 | Relative humidity should generally be maintained within a range of 30-70% throughout the year. Although maintenance of humidification within a limited range over extended periods is extremely difficult, daily fluctuations (recognizing the effects of routine husbandry especially when caring for large animal species) in relative humidity should be minimized; **if excursions outside the desired range are infrequent, minimal, and of short duration, they are unlikely to negatively affect animal well-being.\*****\*** If excursions are not infrequent, the institution should utilize an outcome-based performance standard ([FAQ G.10](https://olaw.nih.gov/faqs#/guidance/faqs?anchor=question52960).) |
| Page 140 | ...steam coils should be avoided **or** equipped with a high-temperature cut-off system to prevent space overheating and animal loss with valve failure.  |