



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

## **Standard Operating Procedure Use of Biomedical Research Support Facility (BRSF) Animal Holding Protocol**

### **Background**

Federal regulations require the IACUC to review and approve all activities involving the use of live vertebrate animals; all animals intended for use in research, testing, and teaching or for related purposes, must be housed under an active and approved IACUC protocol at all times.

Occasionally, situations occur in which animals are in the vivarium under protocols that are not current or are not fully approved. In order to remain in compliance with regulatory requirements, the IACUC allows BRSF to transfer animals to the Animal Holding Protocol for a maximum of 60 days. During this time, investigators must take actions to gain approval of their Application for Use of Vertebrate Animals (AUVA) in order to avoid forfeiture of the animals. The Principal Investigator (PI) will have an opportunity to appeal to the IACUC if more than 60 days are needed.

The IACUC will consider circumstances for housing animals on the Animal Holding Protocol on a case-by-case basis. These circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- A protocol approval has expired or is due to expire prior to securing IACUC approval
- A protocol is under investigation or has been suspended by the IACUC
- Animals arrive in the facility prior to the investigator receiving final IACUC approval of an initial protocol
- Animals are held pending transfer to another institution.

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### **Conditions for Use of the Animal Holding Protocol**

While animals are housed on the Animal Holding Protocol, the following conditions apply:

#### **Housing Only**

The use of the Animal Holding Protocol is limited to animal housing. No experimental manipulations or procedures can be performed on any animals once they are assigned to the Animal Holding Protocol. This includes: data collection, harvest of tissues, sample collection, surgery (major or minor), administering test substances, etc. This holding protocol allows for only the BRSF staff to provide appropriate care for the animals.

#### **Restricted Access**

Animals housed under the Animal Holding Protocol are completely off limits to investigators and their research personnel. The BRSF Manager will contact the Principal Investigator when animals are transferred to the Animal Holding Protocol. Any use of animals housed under the Animal Holding Protocol will be treated as serious regulatory non-compliance.

#### **Identification**

An Animal Holding Protocol sign will be posted on the animal housing room door to identify animals that are placed on the Animal Holding Protocol. When feasible, the animal housing room will be secured to allow only BRSF staff and the University Veterinarian access.

## **Husbandry and Animal Care**

Per diem charges for animals on the Animal Holding Protocol are the responsibility of the Principal Investigator. NOTE: Federal funds (e.g. NIH grant funds) may not be used to pay for costs associated with animal research in the absence of an approved IACUC protocol. BRSF staff will provide routine husbandry, veterinary care, and/or euthanasia by an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) approved method, as needed under the direction of the University Veterinarian.

Health concerns from special husbandry arrangements including special diets, will be managed directly. The use of special diets might be considered experimental manipulation. A special diet may be necessary for the creation/maintenance of an animal model or could be vital to the animals' well-being. These situations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Husbandry procedures exclude breeding during the 60-day holding period. Breeding colonies may be maintained for genetically modified mice to preserve the line only if these animals are not available commercially; however, no breeding will take place during the 60-day holding period.

Animals will be housed "as-is" if placed onto the Animal Holding Protocol as this is generally in the best welfare interests of the animals. If animals originate from a protocol that received prior IACUC approval to single house the animals due to experimental design, then the animals will continue to be housed singly while being held under the Animal Holding Protocol. If animals are brought in from another institution onto the Animal Holding Protocol animals will be group housed when possible.

## **Reinstatement**

Animals will only be released from the Animal Holding Protocol once an IACUC approval (approved protocol) has been granted.

## **60 Day Limit**

Animals remaining at the end of sixty days will be euthanized or transferred by BRSF staff to another IACUC approved protocol unless an extension is granted by the IACUC.

For more information, please contact the BRSF Manager (248) 370-4440 or the BRSF staff at (248) 370-4441.

## **References**

1. University of California Irvine IACUC Policy - Office of Research – Use of ULAR Holding Protocol.
2. Wayne State University IACUC Standard Operating Procedure – IACUC Holding Protocol 2012.
3. DePaul University Animal Care and Use Committee SOP – Holding Protocol Procedures 2015.