

USDA 2019 Annual Exceptions/Exemptions
Registration Number: 55-R-0003
Customer Number 863

§ 3.6(c)(1): Primary enclosure space:

5 Dogs

In order to ensure appropriate anesthetic recovery and post-operative care, animals were maintained in cages that restricted movement. This was justified in the animal use protocol and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The institution's veterinary clinical staff was involved in the necessity, type, and length of the post-operative care provided. The dogs were able to make normal postural adjustments and assume normal standing posture with clearance from the top of the cage. These dogs were also given extra hands-on care and attention by the veterinary, research, and animal care staff during this period.

10 Dogs

In order to appropriately train dogs to become assistance animals, they slept in crates overnight that mimicked a home environment. The crates may not have met the exact space specifications indicated in section § 3.6(c)(1) during specific points in the animals growth; however, the space provided was recommended by a board certified veterinary behaviorist to best meet the development needs of the dogs, was reviewed by the institution's veterinary clinical staff, and was justified in the animal use protocol and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The dogs were able to make normal postural adjustments and assume normal standing posture with clearance from the top of the crate. Furthermore, the animals only slept in crates and spent the majority of their time in more spacious areas where they could play freely, socialize, and interact with conspecifics and with humans.