



Biomedical Research Support

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USDA Annual Report of Research Facility

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Summary of Exceptions to the Regulations and Standards:

Oakland University's IACUC has approved one protocol that requires guinea pigs to be housed at temperatures higher than the $64^{\circ} - 79^{\circ}$ F range recommended by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

In order to study the possible relationship of high ambient temperature to nuclear cataract formation, and to get a better understanding of this relationship; male retired breeder guinea pigs are being housed at $83^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$ F, 24 hrs/day, for up to 8 months, compared to control guinea pigs housed at $68^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$ F. The guinea pigs exposed to the higher temperatures are given free access to water in addition to the water supplied by the automatic lixits. Animal housing room humidity and temperature levels are monitored and recorded daily via the Edstrom Industries, Inc. Watchdog System, the research facility's environmental computer (24/7/365) monitoring system.

To date, 23 guinea pigs have been exposed to the higher temperatures identified in the protocol. The health care and status of these animals is checked daily by the animal husbandry staff, the principal investigator, and the veterinarian. The animals have not experienced any complications or undo side-effects due to their being exposed to these higher temperatures.

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