

Description of Exceptions to Applicable Regulations

- The IACUC has approved one exception that pertains to cage size. It has allowed a cage height of 30" to 31.5" (cages taper from front to back) for rhesus macaques up to 15 kg in weight. The "Guide" recommends a cage height of 32". The design of the cage overcompensates on the floor space area at 9 square ft for one animal rather than the 6 square feet recommended. There appears to be no impact on the animals' physiological or psychological well-being.
- The IACUC has approved a protocol conducting surgical procedures on ferrets in an individual laboratory. VCU's Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) advised that the safety concerns regarding the injection of a replication incompetent recombinant herpes simplex virus into brain tissue outweighs the use of a dedicated surgical facility for this small animal. The IACUC approved the use of a biosafety cabinet with the appropriate air flow.

Both deviations were re-visited and approved by our attending veterinarian and the IACUC during IACUC protocol review as well as semi-annual program reviews.