

The Rockefeller University

IACUC Approved Exceptions to USDA Regulations or Standards

The IACUC has approved an exception for non-human primates (NHPs) enrolled in studies that require restricted fluid intake for performance of complex behavioral tasks. Animals that are not fluid controlled usually will not work or will only work for periods of time so brief as to not be useful for training and recording. As two of RU investigators are offering water or juice rewards to NHPs for behavioral studies with awake macaques at less than the minimum water requirement under the regulations in section 3.83, we have an exception institutionally approved by the IACUC. Duration of restricted fluid intake is limited to the minimal time needed to accomplish the task and animals are closely monitored, including regular weighing, while on these restriction periods. In this regard, animals on water restriction protocols are approved to be individually housed in settings where they can see and hear other NHPs.

The IACUC has approved an exception for non-human primates (NHPs) used in a study that require a daily ration reduction compatible with animals maintaining a weight at approximately 95% of their free-feeding levels. This deviation from the feeding requirement under the regulations in section 3.82 has been approved by the IACUC.

The IACUC has approved an exception for pair housing of selected non-human primates (NHP). Our goal is to pair house animal whenever possible. In selected circumstances such as for scientific reasons, behavior aggression and if under veterinary care, NHPs may be singly housed for periods of time. In all cases, animals that cannot be pair housed will be closely tracked, provided additional enrichment and reevaluated periodically. In many cases, cages will also be modified to make use of screen dividers that allow for greater interaction between animals housed adjacent to one another. These deviation has been approved by the IACUC.

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