



Northeastern

November 14, 2011

Exceptions to the Animal Welfare Act approved by the IACUC at Northeastern University 14-R-0021

The IACUC has approved exceptions to the AWA on two protocols for one Principal Investigator. The PI has been allowed to go up to 18 days on each protocol between cage changes of singly housed hamsters. This was approved for housing hamsters in light-tight ventilated chambers to alter light dark cycles, and to expose them to various lengths and intensities of light and darkness. This PI has also been given permission to house hamsters in constant dim light to measure the free running times of the hamsters in the absence of external rhythmic factors, i.e. light cycles. A rhythmic light dark cycle will not allow for this information to be gathered.

The hamsters are housed in wheel running cages for circadian rhythm experiments. The PI feels that a cage change during an animal's free running period in constant conditions induced activity can cause a phase shift or period change in its activity rhythm. In many experiments, phase and period are the critical measurements and the timing of a cage change is essential so that the research data is not impacted. Every effort is made to design experiments to accommodate frequent cage changes, but occasionally a cage will be not be changed for a period of 18 days.

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