

IACUC-approved exceptions to AWA regulations and standards: October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

Sanitization of primary enclosures and food and water receptacles §3.84 (b)

Certain baboon cages may be sanitized in a mechanical cage washer at four- to five-week intervals rather than a two-week interval. These are cages in which baboons that have been fitted with a chronically indwelling intravenous catheter, protected by a tether and harness system are living. The back of the cage contains an instrument panel with levers that the baboon uses to produce food pellets and/or drug delivery. To machine-sanitize the cages, the animals must be sedated, removed from the cage, and the catheter plus the flexible tether that protects it disconnected from the liquid swivel at the top of the cage, thus breaking into the sterile system. Also, when a study is ongoing, there are periods in which it is critical to avoid sedating the baboon, if at all possible, to avoid introducing a variable that will confound interpretation of the results. To address these concerns, the IACUC approved a maximum interval of 4-5 weeks between machine sanitizations. During that time, however, all other routine husbandry procedures, including the cleaning of cage pans and food bins, are done on schedule. In addition, the baboon is routinely sedated (but without disconnecting from the liquid swivel) approximately every 2-3 weeks for physical examination, shaving and scrubbing the catheter exit site, clipping nails, cleaning teeth, and obtaining a body weight. At these times, all soiled surfaces of the cage are cleaned with a detergent solution or combination detergent/disinfectant product and rinsed as per 3.84b(3)(iii). The exception from machine sanitization every 2 weeks was required for a total of 3 animals during this reporting period.

Primary enclosures §3.80(b) (2) (i)

An exception to the floor area per animal required for baboons larger than 25 kg was approved. That is, baboons greater than 25 kg were approved for housing in cages with floor area of 10 square feet and a cage height of 57 inches, which is higher than required for Group 5 cages. This exception was approved due to scientific requirements of the research in that the 10-square-foot cage serves as the experimental chamber, and has specialized equipment and computer connections; in some cases, the baboon also has a chronically indwelling intravenous or intragastric catheter protected by a double anaconda cable attached to a liquid swivel system. The length of this cable is sufficient to allow the baboon full range of motion in the cage of this size; a longer cable would be problematic for the study. During the reporting period, a total of 12 baboons were covered under this exception.

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