

Summary of IACUC-Approved Exceptions to the Regulations and Standards

Specified and Explained by the Principal Investigator and Approved by the IACUC

Exception to sanitation schedule:

1. Registration Number: 14-R-0036
2. Number: 10
3. Species: Syrian hamster

In a study involving Syrian hamsters, the researcher submitted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the IACUC regarding an extended period between sanitation for animals involved in circadian rhythm studies. The MOU was reviewed and approved by the IACUC. The exception is for animals housed in 24-hour dark cycles or other exotic light cycles and having a cage sanitation interval of up to three weeks. The stimulus of the cleaning process (new cage, fresh bedding) disrupts free running activity levels developed during the study. Activity levels must be measured over several weeks in the same (unchanged) cage environment. The researcher monitors cage conditions during the up to 3-week periods using dim red illumination.

Exception to standard lighting:

1. Registration Number: 14-R-0036
2. Number: 10
3. Species: Syrian hamster

The same MOU as above covers the exception for animals housed in 24-hour dark cycles and other exotic light cycles. The MOU was reviewed and approved by the IACUC. These non-standard lighting conditions are necessary for the goal of the research, studying circadian rhythms and how it regulates health and disease. Observations during periods of darkness are conducted using dim red illumination.

Exception to visual daily observation:

1. Registration Number: 14-R-0036
2. Number: 10
3. Species: Syrian hamster

The MOU also covers remote monitoring of animals in place of daily observation for animals housed in constant darkness. The MOU was reviewed and approved by the IACUC. Only animals equipped with running wheels are housed in constant darkness. Animal care technicians enter rooms twice a week for a routine food and water check and animal inspection using dim red illumination. Healthy hamsters run many revolutions on a wheel each night, and computer records indicating robust activity are considered adequate verification of each animal's well-being during the period of housing in constant dark. Animals are "checked" daily, by checking their activity level. If activity level is not within normal range, a physical check is performed using dim red light.

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