

Summary of IACUC-Approved Exceptions to the Regulations and Standards

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

1. Registration Number: 14-R-0036
2. Number: 48
3. Species: Syrian hamster

Exception to sanitation schedule:

In a study involving Syrian hamsters, the researcher submitted a memorandum of understanding to the IACUC regarding an extended period between sanitation for animals involved in circadian rhythm studies. The memorandum is 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.

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Exception to standard lighting:

The same MOU as above covers the exception for animals housed in 24-hour dark cycles and other exotic light cycles. These non-standard lighting conditions are necessary for the goal of the research, studying circadian rhythms and how it regulates health and disease. Observations are conducted under dim red illumination or with a Find R Scope.

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Exception daily observation:

The MOU also covers remote monitoring of animals in place of daily observation for animals housed in constant darkness. Only animals equipped with running wheels are housed in constant darkness. Entry times should be randomized. Time spent in the room and checking individual cages should be minimized. Animal Care techs will enter rooms twice a week for a routine food and water check and animal inspection using a Find-R-Scope to “see” the cages. These checks will be conducted without moving the cage to minimize the potential for disturbing the animals. Animals are “checked” daily, by checking their activity level. If activity level is not within normal range a physical check will be done using dim red light.

1. Registration Number: 14-R-0036
2. Number: 24
3. Species: Syrian hamster

Exception to standard lighting:

Animals are dark reared in 24 hour dark conditions to study development of visual function. The protocol is approved by the IACUC and the animals receive daily care and health checks under red light conditions.