

Summary of Exceptions to Standards and Regulations Fiscal Year 2021

One exception has been approved that affects ground squirrels that are being held for use in research and teaching.

1. IACUC approved exceptions to the regulation requiring food and water availability daily. Some of the studies in our facility focus on hibernation of squirrels. The successful induction and maintenance of hibernation requires the creation of conditions such as squirrels encounter during the winter in their natural environments. These are characterized by the absence of food and water. These conditions are recommended by published husbandry plans from the facility that provided the thirteen-lined ground squirrels and are considered entirely normal and appropriate for these animals in this condition. This exception applies to all of the ground squirrels in our colony, since all squirrels hibernate.

Two exceptions have been approved that affect mice and voles that are used in research and teaching.

1. IACUC approved a plan to use non-pharmaceutical grade steroids in work with mice (testosterone and estradiol). These steroids obtained from chemical supply companies rather than pharmacological supply companies were preferred for two reasons:
 - a. pharmacological preparations come in solutions of modified steroids (for example, testosterone propionate) that are not identical to what is found in this species, and
 - b. the literature is full of studies that used the same sources of chemicals, and prepared injection solutions in the manner described by the investigator. It is important that the results obtained by the investigator be comparable to those already published.
2. IACUC approved a plan to use non-pharmaceutical grade chemicals in work with voles (oxytocin and JMV 2959 a ghrelin receptor antagonist). These chemicals obtained from supply companies rather than pharmacological supply companies were preferred for two reasons:
 - a. pharmacological preparations come in solutions of modified steroids that are not identical to what is found in this species, and
 - b. the literature is full of studies that used the same sources of chemicals, and prepared injection solutions in the manner described by the investigator. It is important that the results obtained by the investigator be comparable to those already published.