

EXCEPTIONS TO REGULATIONS

1. The IACUC has approved an exception to the policy regarding cage changes for gerbils. Cage change data for gerbils has been gathered, reviewed and approved by the IACUC. The data show that gerbil cages need not be changed every 2 weeks but only once a month. The ammonia levels remained low and the decrease in cage changes might decrease stress, and improve reproductive parameters. 497 gerbils have been housed under this exception to the cage changing requirements for housing gerbils during this reporting period (FY 2021).
2. The IACUC has approved an exception to the policy regarding space requirements for swine, specifically for group-housed swine (2-5 animals) that weigh 50-100 kg. The IACUC determined that housing at 16 sq. ft/animal (vs the Guide recommendation of 20 sq. ft/animal) fulfills performance standards to ensure animal welfare. We will still continue to house at Guide recommended space minimums, but this will allow us more flexibility as needed, such as when animals damage runs and the runs cannot be used. It is also worth noting that we generally do not house pigs > 80 kg. No swine have been housed under this exception to the space requirements for housing swine during this reporting period (FY 2021).
3. The USDA approved the reassignment of one sheep with the following conditions: The sheep would be transferred from the initial PI to the Holding protocol and then to the PI for the second and terminal procedure. It was recommended that the receiving PI amend their protocol to state that sheep that have had a prior surgical procedure would be acceptable for their study, it would not affect the end result and that it reduces the number of sheep being used. The USDA stated this is only acceptable if the second procedure was a terminal surgery. The IACUC reviewed and determined to approve the process required by the USDA.