

Hamster (# affected = 845)

Syrian Hamsters used for infectious disease research were housed in high biosecurity caging in an isolated ABSL3 room. In order to contain the pathogens used, hamsters were housed in Allentown BCU (biocontainment unit) individually ventilated caging, which has an internal height of 5 inches. The high airflow rate required for this ABSL3 room results in low humidity, which sometimes drops as low as 20%. Although the macroenvironment had low humidity, the environment inside ventilated cages is always higher than the macroenvironment. The IACUC granted an exception to house the hamsters in this caging, which does not meet the 5.5" height requirement of the AWA, and in this suite (which did not maintain a minimum 30% humidity in the macroenvironment) to meet the biosecurity needs for working with the infectious agents.

Dog (# affected = 1, duration = 60 hours)

Exception- specialty caging does not meet standard floor space requirements and possibly limits the animal's ability for species-specific movement).

The exemption is to temporarily house a dog treated with a radioactive compound in an isolation kennel (floor space of 12.15 sq. ft. instead of ~16.7 per AWA for this size dog). The dog will be monitored and provided with food and water at least twice daily during the isolation period. If the dog stays longer than 48 hours, it will be released from the cage at least once for a duration of ≥ 15 minutes for positive human interaction/play.

Note: The reduced floor space did not impact the dog's species specific behavior. Increased human socialization with the dog outside of the enclosure was used to alleviate the conspecific isolation that resulted from the 60 hours it was in the room.