

**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: 444
3. Species: Syrian hamster

Exception to sanitation and lighting schedule:

In a study involving Syrian hamsters, the researcher submitted a memorandum of explanation to the IACUC regarding a change in the sanitation and lighting schedules for animals involved in circadian rhythm studies. The memorandum was reviewed and approved by the IACUC. The exception is for animals housed in 24-hour dark cycles and having a cage sanitation interval of up to three weeks. This is because the stimulus of the cleaning process (new cage, fresh bedding) disrupts free running activity levels developed during the study. These activity levels must be measured over several weeks in the same (unchanged) cage environment. It was agreed that the researcher would closely monitor the cage conditions during the up to 3-week periods. Such observations must be conducted under very dim red illumination. It was agreed by the IACUC and the Attending Veterinarian that inactive animals will be visually checked to make sure they are not ill or in distress. 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 according to this exception.

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