

USDA Registration Number: 41-R-0015

Physiological Research Laboratories

11-16-2018

**Re: Exceptions to the standards of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) for 2018 USDA Annual Report**

For the reporting period of 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018, the following exceptions to the standards and regulations have occurred at the reporting facility. These exceptions and justification have been reviewed, approved, and documented by the Physiological Research Laboratories Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Modified housing had been used for 6 sheep, on 3 studies which required restricted movement of the animals to avoid damage to the test devices and risk to the animal's health (should damage occur). The restraint process, adapted from other facilities, tethered the sheep via halter and cross ties to the sides of the animal pen. The restraint allowed the animal to move forward, backward, to rise and lie down normally, but did not allow the animal to completely turn around. Turning around would damage the device due to external cabling/tubing which was routed to devices supporting the animal (power, pumps, monitors). The welfare of the animal and ability to exhibit species specific behavior was evaluated monthly, and more frequently if the technical staff observed abnormal behavior. Additional enrichment was provided, such as feed supplements, increased human contact, grooming, and toys or objects for the animal to manipulate. The animals are acclimated to the housing prior to enrollment on the study. Animals who do not tolerate the housing are assigned to other study activities.

**Number of animals housed in this manner during this reporting period:**

Modified housing had been used for 6 sheep

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