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## Exception to the Standards of the Animal Welfare Act

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of Houston has granted an exception to the water requirement for nonhuman primates (watering less than twice a day for one hour each time).

After careful review of the scientific justification, two investigators were granted IACUC approval to utilize carefully monitored water control as a motivational tool for cognitive testing in rhesus macaques:

- For investigator #1, at intervals of no more than once per week, animals are provided a full ration of water for 2-3 hours in the morning on the day prior to a scheduled testing session, at which time the water is removed. Depending on the testing schedule, some of these animals have the potential to go without water for 24 hours.
- For investigator #2, at intervals of no more than once per week, a half-ration of water is provided at 8:00 in the morning and an additional half ration of water at noon on the day prior to a scheduled testing. Depending on the testing schedule and how fast the nonhuman primate consumes the second half-ration of water, an animal could potentially be without water for 24 hours.

Not all subjects are tested each week.

On other days, animals are provided water during and after their cognitive training session for at least 2 hours per day. The water restriction does not exceed 24 hours and therefore is considered to be compliant with the Animal Welfare Act section 3.83.

There are additional periods during the week during which animals are provided full access to water.

Per the IACUC-approved protocols, these animals are assessed daily by the investigative and veterinary staff, and weights are required to be documented weekly. These weights are provided to the full IACUC for review on a monthly basis; any deviations or problems are discussed in the meeting. There have been no clinical problems noted in these animals.

For fiscal year 2014, 9 animals were granted one of these exceptions.