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Summary of exceptions to the standards and regulations of the Animal Welfare Act

The IACUC at Meharry Medical College has approved a modification for protocol 060619JGT102-01, 4/13/2016, that included an exemption to the Animal Welfare Act's requirement regarding the approved methods of cleaning/sanitizing guinea pig enclosures prior to introduction of a guinea pig onto the enclosure previously used by another guinea pig. A summary of this exception is as follow:

The laboratory of the Principal Investigator (PI) has been identified to be a satellite facility because the behavior assessments described in the parent protocol require that the guinea pigs be kept in the laboratory in excess of 12 hours. The satellite facility is open to inspection by the IACUC and the veterinarian to check the health of the animals before and/or after experimentation. The PI uses the Noldus Phenotype chamber to house animals for experimental purpose in the lab. According to the manufactory, harsh chemical should not be used to clean the Opaque walls which may cloud and damage the material. Because of this, the PI requests an addendum to include the following activities: The Noldus Phenotype chamber will be sprayed and wiped with 70% isopropyl solution between uses to eliminate cross contamination between animals. Furthermore, the PI will ensure all water bottles; feeders and dividers are transported to the animal care facility for washing in our cabinet washer after each cycle of behavior testing. Guinea pigs may be kept for a continuous 24 hours observation period in the laboratory before the animals are returned to their housing cages in the Animal Care Facility.

Species involved: Guinea Pigs

Number of animals affected: 32