

Assurance Statements

- 3.) Regarding assurance statement 3, there are IACUC protocols that require the removal of resting surfaces from the primary enclosure of cats, specifically:

Perching Surfaces:

Animals with chronic implants may damage the implants from jumping onto raised surfaces. Also, animals that are recovering from surgery may be less stable and can injure themselves when moving onto or from the perch. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA), *Part 3, subpart A § 3.6.iv.4*, states that each primary housing enclosure must contain a resting surface, which must be elevated. Depending on the animals' condition, the perch may be removed or modified to prevent the animal from injuring itself. If the perching surface has been removed or lowered, additional cage space and a comfortable resting surface will be provided.

One (1) cat was affected by this exception to the AWA in the past year (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016).