

24 NOV 2017

## Assurance Statements

3.) Regarding assurance statement 3, there are IACUC protocols that require the removal of resting surfaces from the primary enclosures 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/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 will be provided. A comfortable resting surface will be provided if the perch has been removed.

Three (3) cats were affected by this exception to the AWA in the past year (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017).