

USDA Annual Report of Research Facility – Online Exceptions Supplement

For the University of California, Berkeley
Reporting Period October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018

IACUC approved exceptions to standards and regulations of the Act during the reporting period include the following:

Exception to 3.131 (a) (other warm-blooded animals): Cleaning Schedule

The IACUC approved one protocol with an exception to the cleaning schedule. During this period, 110 tuco-tucos were used under this exception.

Justification: The exception for cleaning primary enclosures that house warm-blooded animals reflects both the biology of these animals and the goals of the associated research project. Tuco-tucos rely heavily on olfactory cues to maintain social relationships. Frequent cleaning of animal housing disrupts those cues, thereby potentially impacting social interactions. The goal of these studies is to document the social behavior of this species. Sanitation leads to observable changes in behavior (e.g., excessive urination at tunnel junctions to re-establish scent marks) and thus impacts data collection. The current cleaning schedule (every 6-8 weeks) has been used for many years with no apparent negative consequences to animal health or welfare.