Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Acclimation Periods		
Document #: 021	**Version #:** 02	
Approved by IACUC Date: February 7, 2017		

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) require an acclimation period for all animals arriving at UNTHSC DLAM.

b. An acclimation period allows animals time to stabilize in a new environment to enhance reproducible experimental results. According to *The Guide*, page 111 "….newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization before their use."

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. It is the responsibility of Principal Investigators and lab staff to follow the acclimation period guidelines listed below.

C. PROCEDURES

a. All laboratory species are covered in this procedure.

b. All newly received laboratory animals must be held for a minimum number of days (depending on the species, see table below) without any experimental manipulation for acclimation, observation and treatment. For terminal procedures, the required acclimation period is shorter.

c. Exceptions to the Acclimation Periods for Laboratory Animals policy require a written request and subsequent approval by the IACUC.

d. Animals under acclimatization/quarantine should not come in contact with animals already on study.

e. **Minimum acclimation requirements:**

i. All newly received animals generally require an average of 3-5 days acclimation/stabilization period before any experimental usage can go forth. Exceptions to the general guidelines found in the following table will require documentation with prior approval for the exemption from the DLAM Director or his designee OR a written justification included in the Protocol, which has approval.

ii. Medical concerns, training needs or emergencies as determined by the DLAM Veterinary Staff may exempt an animal from the acclimation period.

iii. Table 1. Required acclimation days for each species:

SPECIES	Days required for acclimation before survival procedures	Days required for acclimation before terminal procedures
Rats, Mice	3	0
Hamsters, Gerbils	3	0
Rabbits, Guinea Pigs	3	2
Frogs	3	2
Pigs, Sheep	5	3
Dogs & Cats	10	10
Goats*	In/out same day	<1 (approx. 1 hr)
Other Species	Contact DLAM Manager	Contact DLAM Manager

*Goats are not housed in DLAM, but are delivered early in the morning, checked in by the DLAM Receiving Officer then transferred within 1 hour to the laboratory that will be conducting the terminal procedure on the same day of their arrival. The animals are stabilized in the Necropsy Room, close to the loading dock & freight elevator, just prior to being anesthetized and taken to the laboratory to conduct the pre-approved surgical procedure.

D. REFERENCE

a. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (2011). Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.