Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNTHSC
Title: Acclimation Periods		
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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requires 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 under this SOP.

b. All newly received laboratory animals must be held for a minimum number of days (see Table 1 for the requirements for each species) without any experimental manipulation for acclimation, observation and treatment. For terminal procedures, the required acclimation period is shorter (Table 1).

c. Exceptions to the Acclimation Periods for Laboratory Animals policy will require either a written justification included in a protocol or amendment reviewed by IACUC.

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

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

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

Table1.

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

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