

<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</b>		<b>UNTHSC</b>
<b>Title:</b> Acclimation Periods		
<b>Document #:</b> 021	<b>Version #:</b> 04	
<b>Approved by IACUC Date:</b> February 15, 2023		

**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**

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 without any experimental manipulation for acclimation, observation and treatment.
- c. Table 1 provides the requirements for each species. For terminal procedures, the required acclimation period is shorter.
- d. Exceptions to the Acclimation Periods for Laboratory Animals policy will require either a written justification included in a protocol or amendment reviewed by IACUC.
- e. Animals under acclimation/quarantine should not come in contact with animals already on study.
- f. Medical concerns, training needs or emergencies as determined by the DLAM Veterinary Staff may exempt an animal from the acclimation period.

**Table1. Days required for acclimation**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>before survival procedures</b>	<b>before terminal procedures</b>
Rats, Mice	3	0
Hamsters, Gerbils	3	0
Rabbits, Guinea Pigs	3	2
Pigs	5	3
Other Species	Contact DLAM Manager	Contact DLAM Manager

**D. REFERENCE**

- a. National Research Council. 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>

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