

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
ANIMAL CARE AND VETERINARY SERVICES

HOLDING PERIOD POST-ADMISSION*

Standard Operating Procedure # 310-03

1 INTRODUCTION

Animals arriving at any of the animal facilities in London, are required to undergo a 72 hour “holding period” to allow them to acclimatize to the stresses of transportation and to adjust to a new environment.

During this period no experimental procedures may be performed.

The only exemption will be animals which are used for an acute experiment or for those protocols for which written permission for deviation from the SOP has been provided by the Animal Use Subcommittee.

2 PROCEDURE- Animals for chronic use

2.1 Animals must be placed in an appropriate cage and provided with fresh food and water immediately upon arrival.

2.2 A standard issue cage card, used by the facility should be placed on the cage. This card must list the identity of the researcher, protocol number, vendor, date of arrival, species/strain, sex, weight and emergency contact.

2.3 The animal is monitored for general health, by the research team and animal care personnel, during the next 72 hours. At the end of this time if the animal had developed no adverse health effects it may be used in an experimental procedure. If the animal has health problems this must be reported to the facility manager and/or the Vet Services staff who will assess the animal and determine if it can be used. If the problem is serious and the animal is unsuitable for use, the researcher will be contacted to determine if the animal should be treated or euthanized. A vendor that supplies animals that arrive with or develop serious health problems within the 72 hour period must be notified of the problem and a credit obtained. This is to be done through the manager of the facility or the office staff person who acts as purchasing agent.

3 PROCEDURE - Animals for acute use

3.1 Animals may be removed to the lab in the shipping crate in which they arrive from the vendor if they are to be used on the day of arrival.

3.2 If the animals are to be use later during that holding period they must be placed in an appropriate cage and provided with fresh food and water immediately upon arrival and identified by a cage card.

3.3 It is recommended that animals for acute use be held for a minimum of 72 hours. However, if the investigator decides that the biochemical alterations created by transportation will not interfere with the study, the animals may be used prior to this time period