

Purpose / Scope

The objective(s) of this policy is to outline procedures that are permitted within animal holding rooms. This policy relates to all areas within Western's Research Community where animals are housed beyond 24 hours.

Policy Statements

Experimental procedures that cause distress to other animals must not be undertaken within animal holding rooms, unless required by experimental design or containment needs and pre-approved by the Animal Care Committee.

Where transport to an area outside of the holding room is not possible (due to containment constraints), an anteroom or biosafety cabinet/fumehood must be used to conduct procedures.

Procedures that May be Performed within Animal Holding Rooms

- Monitoring, including video/telemetry
- Handling – cage to cage transfer, not including restraint for procedures
- Weighing
- Cage changing
- Breeding pair set-up, weaning
- Tumour measurement
- Topical medication application
- ACC-approved food/water restriction
- Running wheels within the cage (rodents)
- Field Studies – Minimal stress-inducing, non-invasive sampling and behaviour testing (object introduction, puzzle boards, food)
- Aquatic Species – Testing is permitted whereby a physical barrier exists between those undergoing experimental procedures and those being held

Exceptions may be granted by the ACC in situations where animal or human safety are at risk.

Rationale

Guideline 7 from its Guidelines on: Laboratory Animal Facilities – characteristics, design and development (2003) states that invasive procedures that may cause distress to other animals should be conducted in a procedure room rather than in an animal holding room. According to CCAC, "a distressed animal may convey alarm to conspecifics and induce unnecessary stress in other animals in the room. This may include relatively minor procedures involving transient restraint, such as injection

or collection of small blood samples, especially where wild animals are involved, and includes all invasive procedures.”¹

References

- Canadian Council on Animal Care – CCAC Guidelines on: Laboratory Animal Facilities – characteristics, design and development, 2003.
 - Animal Care Committee policies and procedures.
-

Revision History

Version	Date	Description of Changes	Author
00	09-04-2020	New Policy	LT / KB / SG

¹ Canadian Council on Animal Care. Guidelines on: Laboratory Animal Facilities – characteristics, design and development (2003). Guideline 7 (P.18). Retrieved on 24February, 2020, from <https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Facilities.pdf>