

Animal Facility COVID-19 Sustainability Care and Use Plan

The purpose of this sustainability plan is to establish continual care for the animals housed in the JSU facilities in response to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Our mouse facilities are in direct communication with the Veterinarian and Animal Care Technician and have procedures in place to deal with curtailed operations. These labs are expected to maintain basic animal care and husbandry operations.

Conduct of Semiannual Facility Inspections

In consideration of NIH's allowable flexibilities, JSU IACUC will conduct semi-annual inspections as follows:

- ❖ Facility inspections will be extended to be performed within 30 days from the original 6-month March, 2020 due date.
- ❖ JSU IACUC houses non-USDA regulated species and shall appoint one or two qualified individuals from its current roster to perform the semi-annual inspection. A final facility inspection and program review report will be provided to the Institutional Official, as required.

Conduct of IACUC Meetings

The JSU IACUC will conduct meetings in the following social distancing format to prevent the spread of disease.

- ❖ The JSU IACUC usually conducts business using traditional face-to-face meetings, however, due to COVID 19 standard operating procedures will be followed adhering to the guidance provided under Notice NOT-OD-06-052 to hold meetings. Meetings will be held using telephone and video conferencing telecommunications and the IACUC will follow the guidelines set forth in the PHS approved assurance for protocol review and approval.
- ❖ It is anticipated that only one IACUC meeting will be held per 6 month interval.
- ❖ The designated member review will be utilized to conduct all such meetings as forth in the PHS Assurance.

The Veterinarian and Animal Technician are considered essential employees and will be expected to continue their roles toward the care and use of animals. The Veterinarian has issued the following temporary guidance to help minimize any impact on animal care and research.

1. Postpone the acquisition of new animals whenever possible.
2. Separate all non-essential breeding animals.
3. Consider culling non-essential animals.
4. Limit or postpone requests for Technical Services, Equipment Rentals, and Resource Scheduling.
5. Limit or minimize transfers of animals between research locations.

Animal Facility COVID-19 Sustainability Care and Use Plan

6. Limit the number of persons accessing animal rooms to the minimum number (one person per animal holding room wherever possible). Limit the number of trips to your vivaria to the least necessary.
7. Continue to limit close interpersonal contact as much as is possible.

Finally, animal facility personnel and investigators will follow normal HAZMAT procedures for storage and disposal of hazardous waste.