INVESTIGATOR CARE OF VERTEBRATE ANIMALS

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Background
The UCB Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) may approve investigator care of animals (PI care) in cases when routine husbandry techniques may alter research results or in cases of highly specialized husbandry. In most cases, protocol-wide PI care will only be approved for unique species such as aquatic animals. In some cases, PI care may be allowed for specific activities involving mammals when non-standard husbandry is required (e.g. following viral vector administration, animals that may excrete toxins, etc.). The ACUC must ensure PIs provide appropriate care for animals in cases where Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) personnel are not directly responsible for the daily care of animals.

Overview
In general, UCB policies require that OLAC, under the auspices of the Attending Veterinarian, provide care for all animals used in research and teaching. The ACUC has overall responsibility for ensuring that the program of animal care sufficiently addresses animal welfare needs. The Attending Veterinarian and OLAC Director has day to day responsibility for ensuring the health and welfare of animals used in research and teaching, in accordance with approved animal care and use protocols and federal regulations and policies. This document outlines responsibilities of the PI and OLAC in cases of investigator provided care.

Note: Exceptions to this document must be specifically addressed in an animal care and use protocol and/or supporting standard operating procedures (SOPs) as approved by the ACUC.

INVESTIGATOR RESPONSIBILITIES IN CASES OF PI PROVIDED CARE:

1. Investigators are responsible for notifying OLAC of all housing arrangements under PI care.
2. Investigators must provide a detailed written SOP outlining the animal care practices to be used. SOPs must include procedures to be followed in cases of emergencies if those procedures differ from standard OLAC emergency plans. SOPs must describe who (e.g. students, PI, etc.) provides and oversees care, including

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weeksends and holidays, and must outline necessary qualifications to perform these
tasks. SOPs must be available and regularly reviewed by the ACUC.
3. Investigators who provide animal care assume the responsibility of ensuring animal
welfare needs are addressed, including (a) daily feeding, care, and visual
observation of animal condition as well as (b) ensuring that appropriate cleaning
schedules of enclosures and, when applicable, procedure spaces are maintained.
Investigators must ensure that their staff visually monitor the condition of all animals
365 days per year.
4. Unless otherwise specified in an SOP and the associated animal care and use
protocol, investigators are responsible for ensuring specialized equipment such as
environmental chambers, flow through tank systems, lab-dedicated water treatment
equipment, etc., are functioning properly. Investigators must ensure that their staff
check essential equipment 365 days per year.
5. Animal care practices must meet all standards as set forth in applicable regulations
and guidelines. PI-provided care can vary tremendously; PIs are responsible for
ensuring that their staff are fully trained and maintain appropriate husbandry
standards for all animals under PI care.
6. Investigators are responsible for ensuring that veterinarians and/or animal care staff
are informed of all animal health concerns in a timely manner.
7. All locations where PI care is provided must be accessible at all times to the
Attending Veterinarian and designated OLAC personnel. In non-emergency
situations, every effort will be made to time access to avoid disrupting any
experiments.
8. Unless otherwise arranged, PIs are responsible for providing unique housing, caging
or animal enclosures and for ensuring census records and daily feeding and
cleaning logs are accurate and accessible to the attending veterinarian, ACUC
members, federal or state inspectors, and others as applicable.

OLAC RESPONSIBILITIES IN CASES OF PI CARE:

1. Unless otherwise specified in an approved animal care and use protocol,
OLAC personnel are responsible for ensuring environmental parameters such as
temperature, light cycles, ventilation, security, feed storage, and pest control are
appropriate.
2. Unless otherwise specified in an approved animal care and use protocol, OLAC
personnel are charged with observing all animal enclosures (cages, tanks) daily to
verify that standards of care meet all applicable requirements and that no overt
animal welfare issues are present. Although investigators retain primary
responsibility for ensuring appropriate care and welfare, this service is performed by
OLAC to assist investigators in ensuring animal welfare is maintained. OLAC
personnel perform this service 365 days per year.
3. Unless otherwise specified in an approved animal care and use protocol, OLAC
personnel are responsible for cleaning facilities that hold PI care animals, e.g.,
floors, storage areas, and support spaces.