

Guidelines for Using Cephalopods in Research and Teaching

Table of Contents

1. [Purpose](#)
 2. [General Guidelines](#)
 3. [Guidelines for Daily Care](#)
 4. [Responsibilities and Procedures](#)
 5. [References](#)
-

Purpose

The intent of this guidance is to inform researchers and educators who wish to use cephalopods for research and/or teaching at UC Berkeley of the minimum standards of care associated with this species in order to comply with the spirit of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the Rules of Accreditation from AAALAC.

General Guidelines

- a) Consider and address personnel occupational health and safety risks.
- b) Ensure personnel working with cephalopods are adequately trained.
- c) Implement appropriate and adequate husbandry practices including containment to prevent escape (consult with the Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) for assistance); and,
- d) Consider procedures to address euthanasia of this species. (Contact OLAC directly for additional guidance.)

Guidelines for Daily Care (365 days a year):

- a) Observe each animal and check for health concerns (Guide pg. 112).
- b) Ensure adequate feed is available, though depending on the species and life stage this may be done less frequently (Guide pg. 65-68).
- c) Record sick and dead animals and, if housed within the animal facilities, report them to OLAC veterinary staff immediately.
- d) Record minimum and maximum water temperatures. (Temperature range varies by species. Ranges can vary widely with species and salinity. However, temperatures must be appropriate for the species). (Guide pg. 78).

- e) Cephalopods should be provided environmental enrichment that supports species typical behavior (Guide pg. 83). Dens and shelters for cephalopods are not considered enrichment. Additional manipulatable objects must be provided in addition to shelter.
- i) Objects used for enrichment should be checked regularly for wear and discarded when safety hazards are observed. Avoid any device that has sharp or pointy protrusions.

Responsibilities and procedures for PIs who plan to house cephalopods within the animal facilities:

- a) PIs who plan to house cephalopods within the animal facilities must:
 - i) Obtain approval from the AV/Director of Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) and notify the Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU) prior to bringing them into the animal facilities.
 - ii) Obtain access permission from the AV/OLAC Director for admission into the animal facilities for themselves and their lab personnel. Individuals who are allowed access to the vivarium to conduct research on cephalopods are expected to be aware of and adhere to OLAC procedures and practices that pertain to their presence within the animal facilities.
 - iii) Work with OLAC administrative staff to ensure accurate information is entered into Cayuse for lab personnel, the number of cephalopods to be used, and housing locations.
 - iv) Obtain permits as applicable. For assistance, contact OLAC.

References

- a) [AAALAC FAQs Page](#)
- b) [AAALAC Reference Resources: Cephalopod Guidelines](#)
- c) [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(pages 2; 112\)](#)
- d) [UC Davis office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care](#)
- e) [Cephalopods in Research](#)