



Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
acuc@berkeley.edu

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<https://acuc.berkeley.edu>

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Chair's Message

PIs who utilize animals in research on campus have been contacted to provide annual animal usage numbers for the annual AAALAC report. These numbers are due by Wednesday October 18th, 2023. PIs should include the number of animals ordered from vendors that underwent procedures, the number of animals used for breeding, and the number of animals generated from breeding that were used in procedures. If you have any questions about providing numbers for the AAALAC annual report, please contact the OACU office (acuc@berkeley.edu).

On another note, it is the PI's responsibility to ensure that appropriate training is provided, completed, and documented for everyone listed on their protocol. All personnel must complete the training required by the ACUC and OLAC. Required training is specified in the newly updated [Training and Education Policy](#).

Regards,

Karsten Gronert
ACUC Chair

Occupational Health Visitor Form

If you are welcoming visitors into your lab who are not listed on your AUP, please review the [Occupational Health and Safety Program Policy](#) to make sure the appropriate forms and requirements have been completed. Forms are available in the policy's appendices.

PIs may accompany casual short term or transient adult visitors to their own animal facility and lab space. In areas with unique entry requirements, such as nonhuman primate housing areas, biosafety facilities, or areas with other hazards (radiation producing machines, lasers, etc.), PIs must obtain permission from the AV and potentially other personnel (EH&S, other PIs, etc.) to bring visitors to the area.

If you have questions about whether this applies to a planned visitor to your lab, please contact OACU at acuc@berkeley.edu.

RESOURCES

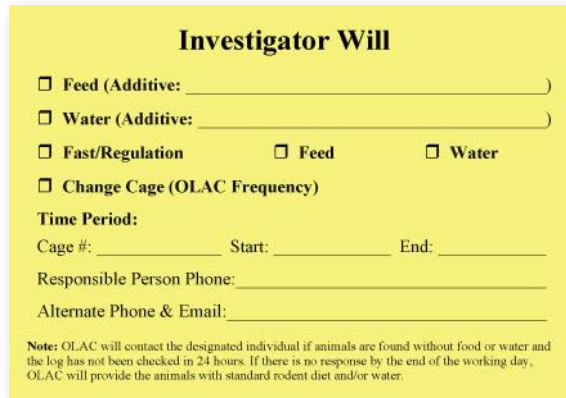
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Investigator Will Cards

Correct use of cage cards is imperative for appropriate documentation. Investigator Will cards must be completely filled out and adhere to monitoring requirements specified on the AUP. If the cards are not filled out correctly, OLAC cannot be accountable for misinterpreting the type of special care that is taking place.



Investigator Will

Feed (Additive: _____)

Water (Additive: _____)

Fast/Regulation Feed Water

Change Cage (OLAC Frequency)

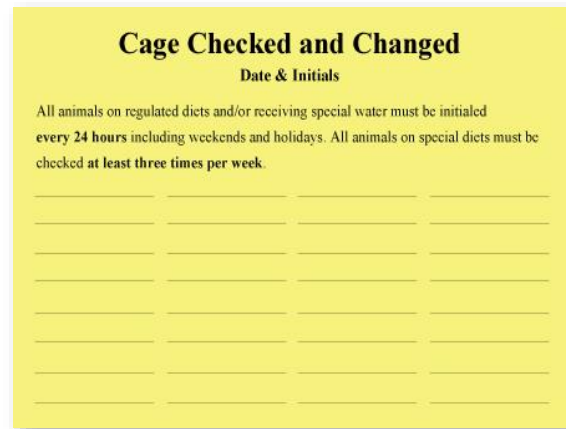
Time Period:
Cage #: _____ Start: _____ End: _____

Responsible Person Phone: _____

Alternate Phone & Email: _____

Note: OLAC will contact the designated individual if animals are found without food or water and the log has not been checked in 24 hours. If there is no response by the end of the working day, OLAC will provide the animals with standard rodent diet and/or water.

Appropriate monitoring notes and frequencies must be clearly documented on the back of the card. If they are not, OLAC may report it to the ACUC as a noncompliance.



Cage Checked and Changed

Date & Initials

All animals on regulated diets and/or receiving special water must be initialed every 24 hours including weekends and holidays. All animals on special diets must be checked at least three times per week.

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Investigator Will cards should be removed once the special care has concluded or paused. Otherwise, it may appear that animals are not being appropriately monitored.

For details about cards used for Non-Standard Housing/Care and Post-Surgical Records/Monitoring Cards, see the [previous issue](#) of this newsletter.

We highly recommend that all personnel working with animals take [EHS 208](#), the new online training course on the proper use of cage cards. For additional training, please contact olactraining@berkeley.edu.

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Preventing Overcrowded Cages

Lab members hold the primary responsibility for checking for pregnancies and births and for recording these events on the appropriate cage card(s). The day of birth is counted as day zero, and all litters must be weaned by 21 days of age. Any litter that requires delayed weaning (i.e., later than the 21-day standard) must be described and justified in the PI's approved AUP. A "Request for Special Services" must be submitted on the OLAC website to ensure that OLAC staff is aware of this deviation from standard husbandry.

Harem breeding (two or more females and one male per cage) must be described and justified in the PI's approved AUP. Lab members are responsible for checking cages daily - including weekends and holidays - and moving a visibly pregnant dam to her own cage **prior** to giving birth.

More details can be found in the ACUC's [Mouse Cage Density Guidelines](#). If you would like additional training and breeding colony consultations, you can request this from the OLAC Training Coordinator and Veterinary Staff.

Appropriate Euthanasia Methods

When euthanizing rodents with CO₂, euthanasia of animals in their home cage is preferred. Animals must never be euthanized in an overcrowded cage or with unfamiliar individuals, and a euthanasia chamber with flowing gas must never be left unattended.

Details about other acceptable methods of euthanasia can be found in the ACUC's [Euthanasia Guidelines](#). Lab members who need refresher training on euthanasia methods should reach out to olactraining@berkeley.edu.

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Policy & Guideline Updates

- [Environmental Enrichment](#) - revised 9/8/2023
- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 9/13/2023
- [Surgical Procedures](#) - revised 9/13/2023
- [Mouse Cage Density Guidelines](#) - revised 9/14/2023
- [Reporting Adverse or Unexpected Events Affecting Animal Welfare](#) - NEW (effective 10/09/2023)
- [Training and Education](#) - revised 10/12/2023
- [Multiple Partial Ovariectomies in Xenopus \(MPOX\)](#) - revised 10/12/2023