

Version: 1.2 Effective Date: 6/1/2024	FOOD AND/OR BEVERAGE IN ANIMAL FACILITIES POLICY	Supercedes Document Dated: 10/15/2015
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I. Background

According to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*), “personnel should not be permitted to eat, drink, use tobacco products, apply cosmetics, or handle or apply contact lenses in rooms and laboratories where animals are housed or used” (Chapter 2; pg. 20).

II. Policy

- A. Food and/or beverages for human consumption are NOT allowed in animal facilities except in designated, dedicated areas listed as exceptions in this policy.
- B. As of January 1, 2014, UC Berkeley became a tobacco-free campus in an effort to create a healthier environment students, faculty, staff, and visitors. For further information please visit [Tobacco and Smoke Free Campus](#).

III. Definitions

- A. Animal facility - All buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures, or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for animal confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding, or experiments inclusive of surgical manipulation (PHS Policy).
- B. Animal use area – Any location where a live animal enters for the purposes of research, teaching or exhibit.
- C. Consumption – Eating food or drinking beverages. For purposes of this policy, the term also covers the application of cosmetics and contact lenses, and chewing gum, which present similar hand-to-mouth hazards.

IV. Applicability

- A. This policy is applicable to all campus and satellite animal facilities associated with UC Berkeley.
- B. All faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors to animal facilities are expected to comply with this policy.

V. Responsibilities

- A. Individual – Responsible for not bringing anything into or consuming anything in animal facilities.
- B. Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) – Provide mentoring and coaching to OLAC staff and anyone who enters animal facilities where needed to reinforce safe practices.

- C. Principal Investigator –
 - 1. Ensure the effective communication and implementation of this policy throughout their designated areas.
 - 2. Provide mentoring and coaching to their staff where needed to reinforce safe practices.

VI. Exceptions

A. Break Rooms in Animal Facilities

Within animal facilities, human consumption of any item outlined in this policy is only allowed in the dedicated, designated break room.

B. Laboratories

- 1. Within laboratories, food must not be stored or consumed near animal use areas. Areas where food is permitted in laboratories where animals are present must be conspicuously marked and sufficiently separate from animal use areas to ensure animals do not contaminate human food or beverages or that the food or beverages do not pose a risk to the animals as potential variables to the research. This includes exposure to odors from food and beverage. Animals must not be allowed to traverse areas where human food and beverages are stored, prepared, or consumed.
- 2. Under no circumstances may human food or beverages be stored in refrigerators, freezers, or temperature-controlled rooms where laboratory animals, medications or other hazardous substances are currently, will be, or have been used or stored.

VII. Procedures

- A. Any food/beverage being transported to an approved location must be in a closed container with a lid.
- B. Prior to consumption, hands should be thoroughly cleaned.
- C. After consumption, the area should be thoroughly cleaned to avoid attracting unwanted pests or vermin.

VIII. References

- A. Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR). National Research Council (2011). *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8th edition).
- B. Office of Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S). (2008). "Food in Laboratories". Retrieved 8 May 2024, from <https://campuspol.berkeley.edu/policies/foodinlabs.pdf?Refresh=0.0756688013105>
- C. Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. (2002). *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

- D. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). (2021). "Smoke and Tobacco Free Environment". Retrieved 8 May 2024, from <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000371/SmokingPolicy>