

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

POLICY ON QUARANTINE AND ACCLIMATION OF RESEARCH ANIMALS

GENERAL POLICY

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th edition, defines **quarantine** as the separation of newly received animals from those already in the facility, in a way that prevents potential spread of contaminants, until the health and possibly the microbial status of the newly received animals have been determined. Regardless of whether the animals are quarantined, newly received animals should be given an **acclimation period** for physiologic, behavioral, and nutritional normalization. During this acclimation period, no experimentation may be conducted (including withdrawal of food, blood draws for experimental purposes, or use of restraint devices). Habituation to routine husbandry procedures and positive human interaction is encouraged during this time. The length of time for acclimation will depend on the type and duration of animal transportation, the species, and the intended use of the animals. .

REQUIREMENTS

Quarantine

Rodents, rabbits, livestock, and dogs coming from [CCM approved vendors](#) do not undergo quarantine.

Rodents coming from non-approved vendors must go through a period of quarantine.

Frogs, nonhuman primates and other species from non-approved vendors undergo a period of quarantine as determined by the Center of Comparative Medicine (CCM) veterinarians to eliminate risk of potential infectious pathogens.

Quarantine of any animal or room or species may be necessary by a CCM veterinarian when a suspected or confirmed disease is discovered. This will be done in consultation with the Principal Investigator(s).

Acclimation

Table 1. Acclimation periods for commonly used species*

Species*	Acclimation for survival surgery	Acclimation for non-surgical procedures requiring anesthesia	Acclimation for procedures not requiring anesthesia	Acclimation for non-survival surgery/procedures
Rodents Amphibians Reptiles	24 hours	24 hours	No acclimation required	No acclimation required
Livestock Dogs Squirrels	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours	No acclimation required
Rabbits	5 days	5 days	24 hours	No acclimation required
Nonhuman primates after quarantine and transferring between MGH facilities	1 week	24 hours	No acclimation required	No acclimation required
Nonhuman primates from Biomere	1 week	1 week	1 week	No acclimation required

*If you are working with a species not listed in the table, please contact your facility veterinarian for recommended the acclimation period.

The IACUC may grant exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis, following careful consideration to the potential impacts to the animal(s).

References:

National Research Council of the National Academies. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th edition](#). National Academies Press: Washington, D.C., 2011.

v1.1, 29 September 2004

v1.2, 20 February 2008

v2.1, 18 October 2017

v2.2, 17 February 2021