

**UBC ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE**  
**POLICY 023**  
**Allowable Procedures in Animal Holding Rooms**  
**for Rodents**

Date Approved: August 29, 2016

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**Policy**

**Purpose:**

The UBC Animal Care Committee (ACC) is responsible for approving all areas where animals are **housed in animal holding rooms**. The purpose of this document is to define procedures that are allowed to be performed in animal holding rooms.

**Definitions**

**Animal Housing and Holding Areas**

Areas where animals are held for more than 24 hours are considered as a holding area. Housing/holding areas are usually located in a defined zone of the animal facility. Separate animal holding rooms should be available for each species

**Experimental and Treatment Facilities**

Experimental manipulations, such as injections, surgeries, euthanasia, necropsies, should not be carried out in animal holding rooms, unless mandated by experimental design or specific containment needs and approved by the Animal Care Committee (ACC).

As approved by the ACC, a containment unit (eg Biobubble) with a segregated area within, such as an anteroom or a Biosafety cabinet within the holding area may be used to conduct procedures when transport to a procedure room is not possible.

**POLICY STATEMENTS**

As per CCAC Guideline 7: Invasive procedures that may cause distress to other animals should be conducted in a procedure room rather than in an animal holding room.

Examples of procedures that are allowed to be performed in a holding room

1. **Mice:**
  - a. Weighing
  - b. Observations- Monitoring – including video

- c. Cage changing
- d. Tumour measurement
- e. Setting up breeding pairs
- f. Organization of housing groups
- g. ACC approved food or water restrictions
- h. Application of topical medications
- i. Handling training
- j. Running wheels within the cage
- k. Telemetry monitoring

**2. Rats:**

- a. Weighing
- b. Observations- Monitoring- including video
- c. Cage changing
- d. Tumour measurement
- e. Conditioning
- f. Weaning (not including ear notching)
- g. Setting up breeding pairs
- h. ACC approved food or water restrictions
- i. Application of topical medications
- j. Handling training
- k. Running wheels within the cage
- l. Telemetry monitoring

Note: If rats need to be conditioned outside of the cage changing station or BSC, notify area manager as appropriate.

**Note: Please contact the facility manager or UBC Veterinarian if you wish to request permission to perform procedures in the holding room that are not on this list**

**REFERENCES**

- Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines on: Laboratory Animal Facilities – characteristics, design and development, 2003.
- Canadian Council on Animal Care Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals. 1993.
- UBC Policy 14 – Continuing Review (Post-Approval Monitoring)
- UBC Policy 17 - Monitoring of Animals Used for Research, Teaching & Testing (2015)