

UBC ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE
POLICY 027
Welfare of Animals used in Science:
Husbandry and Environmental Enrichment

Date Approved: September 19, 2019

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide the minimum standards of husbandry and environmental enrichment for all species of animals housed in the University of British Columbia animal facilities. The policy is accompanied by guidelines that provide details on husbandry and environmental enrichment for specific species.

2.0 SCOPE:

This policy applies to all animals used in teaching, breeding and/or research housed in University of British Columbia animal facilities that fall under the review of UBC's Animal Care Committee ("UBC animal facilities").

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY:

- 3.1** It is the responsibility of any person involved in the care and use of animals to follow this policy;
- 3.2** Animal husbandry and enrichment programs must be reviewed regularly by the UBC ACC to ensure they reflect current knowledge and practices.

4.0 POLICY STATEMENTS:

- 4.1** All species of animals that are maintained in captivity in University of British Columbia animal facilities must be housed and handled under conditions that minimize animal stress and enhance animal welfare;
- 4.2** Species-appropriate environmental enrichment must be provided as part of standard husbandry programs;
- 4.3** Husbandry and environmental enrichment programs must take into account the different life stages of the animal and attempts must be made to assess animal welfare over their entire lifetime;

- 4.4 Husbandry and environmental enrichment programs must be based on the species-specific guidelines¹. For species that are not covered by those guidelines, a program must be developed in consultation with UBC clinical veterinarians and/or designate and approved in a UBC ACC protocol, before being incorporated;
- 4.5 Housing for research animals must meet the physical, psychological and behavioural needs of the animals²;
- 4.6 Sufficient good quality food must be provided to all animals, and be suited to the species, age of the animals and research requirements³;
- 4.7 Appropriate water sources must be supplied in a manner that makes it available to all animals at all times⁴;
- 4.8 Handling must take into account species and individual animal differences and be conducted in a manner that minimizes stress for the animals and risks to the animals and personnel⁵;
- 4.9 Each housing room must maintain a single species unless special arrangements have been made for compatible species⁶;
- 4.10 Each housing room must consider the following living conditions for the animals: Air quality, temperature, humidity; physical structure of cage or enclosure; objects within space (shelter, nest boxes, substrate, objects for manipulation); sanitation and biosecurity, environmental enrichment; human interactions (contact, handling, restraint and training);
- 4.11 Alterations to the ACC approved husbandry and environmental enrichment guidelines must be approved in a UBC ACC protocol.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. *CCAC Species-Specific Guidelines:*

<https://www.ccac.ca/en/standards/guidelines/types-of-animals.html>

2-6. *CCAC Guidelines: Husbandry of Animals in Science:*

<https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/CCAC-guidelines-on-husbandry-of-animals-in-science.pdf>

CCAC 3Rs: Environmental Enrichment

<https://3rs.ccac.ca/en/care-and-techniques/ct-care/enrichment.html>