

Policy on the Use of Animals Outside of the Vivarium

Federal regulation and policy mandate the maximum duration of time that research animals can be kept outside of the housing facility. Animals regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) e.g. cats, dogs, nonhuman primates, ruminants, pigs, rabbits, ferrets, and rodents other than laboratory bred mice and rats (of the genus *Mus* and *Rattus* respectively) are not permitted to be away from their housing rooms for more than 12 hours at a time. Public Health Service (PHS) Policy covers all animals regulated by the USDA as well as laboratory bred mice and rats, and birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish. PHS Policy prohibits these animals from being out of the vivarium for longer than 24 hours.

Please make sure that the doors to laboratories and procedure rooms in which animals are present are closed. This especially applies to those rooms located along a public corridor. Never leave animals in restraint devices or unconscious animals unattended. Due to their propensity to escape and cause injury to themselves or people, do not leave nonhuman primates unattended outside of the housing room. In addition, do not leave animals likely to vocalize (e.g. cats) alone outside the vivarium. Other research animals (e.g. rodents, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish) left unattended in laboratories must be secured behind locked doors. Maintain animals in the laboratory in appropriate enclosures (clean, uncrowded, safe, secure, with sufficient food and water) as described in the approved protocol. Investigators are ultimately responsible for the safety and security of animals present in their laboratories.

If you, after removing rodents from a one-way room, find that you are unable to complete your experiment within the proper timeframe, you must contact the Animal Resource Office to promptly make arrangements for two-way room housing.

If your experimental design requires that animals be away from the Vivarium for a longer duration than permitted by University policy, you must apply to the UCAR Office for satellite facility status of your laboratory. A satellite is defined as any room outside of the vivarium where regulated species are kept for longer than 12 hours or where non-regulated species are kept for longer than 24 hours. A housing room within the vivarium may also be considered a satellite if vivarium staff does not provide husbandry services or visit animals daily. UCAR approval of a satellite requires the demonstration of the scientific necessity for such a facility that cannot be met in existing vivarium space. A satellite must meet all governmental and University regulations and standards (i.e. temperature, humidity, air changes, controls). All satellites are subject to the "University Policy on Satellite Animal Care and Use Facilities". For further information on satellite facilities please contact the UCAR office.

Approved by UCAR: June 18, 2025