

Supplemental and Experimental Food Storage Guidelines

Reapproved by UCAR 7/16/25

Diet stability and shelf life vary based on diet composition and storage conditions. Animal diets must be maintained under conditions as recommended by the manufacturer. If the diet is stored under modified conditions to extend shelf life, a letter must be obtained from the manufacturer including diet expiration under these conditions. A letter must be maintained for review by UCAR/external agencies.

Animal diets or food treats stored by investigators in their lab or in the vivarium must be kept off the floor in air tight containers away from animal carcasses and chemicals. Storage areas must be cool and dry. Food must be labeled with the diet name, manufacture date (mill date) and expiration date. In storage areas used by multiple PIs, the diet should also be labeled with the investigator's name. Diet cards are available in the Animal Resource Office.

If the food item is a human foodstuff, it must be labeled "not for human consumption". Bulk food items (sunflowers seeds, peanuts) should be labeled with a six month expiration date after purchase. Expired food items or items beyond the "best used by" date cannot be given to laboratory animals.

Please contact the UCAR office or the Animal Resource Office with questions.