Housing Experimental Animals in the Laboratory for More than 12 Hours Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure, as much as possible, the comfort and safekeeping of animals used in research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Einstein).

II. Scope

This policy applies to all research experiments and programs at Einstein.

III. Policy

Federal law stipulates that animals are not permitted to remain in laboratories for more than twelve (12) continuous hours unless an exception is scientifically justified and approved in advance by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Examples of the need for such exceptions include:

- Continuous monitoring of specific animal(s) for longer than twelve (12) hours.
- Testing specific animal(s) for longer than twelve (12) hours using experimental equipment that cannot be set up in the animal room.
- Specialized housing conditions that cannot be set up in the animal room, or which might affect other animals in a common room.

To maintain and monitor the well-being of animals which are not housed in the animal facility, the following procedures must be followed:

- Only the minimum number of animals necessary may be housed in the laboratory at any one time.
- A log must be kept in the animals’ regular housing room indicating which animals are being housed in the laboratory, where they are located, when they were removed, and when they were returned or sacrificed.
- An observation log must be kept in the laboratory housing area indicating that the standards of animal care are being maintained. This log must document that the animals have been observed and food and water supplies have been checked each day, including weekends and holidays, and that cage changes are provided on a regular basis.
- The temperature and light periods in the laboratory housing area must not differ markedly from those in the animal rooms, unless altered as part of the experimental protocol.
- All animals and their log sheets must be available for inspection by representatives of the IACUC or the Institute for Animal Studies at any time.
IV. Definitions

None.

V. Effective Date

Effective as of: 20 February 2018.

VI. Policy Management and Responsibilities

Einstein’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is the Responsible Office under this Policy. The Institutional Official for the IACUC is the Responsible Executive for this policy. The IACUC Chairperson is the Responsible Officer for the management of this policy.

VII. Approved (or Revised)

Institutional Official  

3/20/2018  

Date

Revision dates: 3/21/2001, 6/15/2011, 12/17/2013, 2/20/18