

**PORTLAND VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANIMAL STUDIES (PVAMC SAS)  
ANIMAL CARE AND USE GUIDELINES**

**CHECK ONE:**

- I agree to comply with the following guidelines.
- I have attached written justification for deviation from these guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Investigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL MONITORING**

**Background.** The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NIH Publication No. 86-23, revised 1996)* specifies that “Animals should be observed and cared for by qualified personnel every day, including weekends and holidays, both to safeguard their well-being and to satisfy research requirements.”

**Guidelines.**

1. Animals that are in experiments which are not expected to cause any disability must be monitored daily.
  - a. Animals showing clinically abnormal behavior must be removed from group housing and housed individually or euthanized.
  - b. Moribund animals must be euthanized (refer to the PVAMC SAS *Guidelines on Death as an Endpoint* for the definition of moribund).
2. Animals that are enrolled in experiments that may result in death must be monitored twice daily, following the PVAMC SAS *Guidelines on Death as an Endpoint*.
3. Stock animals, and animals that are used for breeding only, must be individually examined before weekends and holidays and all abnormal animals separated or euthanized. On weekends and holidays, the rooms containing these animals must be monitored once daily to determine that the temperature is normal, all cages have adequate food and water, and that the facility is operating normally.
4. Records of these observations must be kept indicating the date and time of the observations, the individual conducting the observation, and any findings of the observations. These records must be kept on file for a period of 3 years and made available to VMU and/or SAS personnel upon request.

VMU personnel will make observations of animals that come under items 1 and 3 above, and are housed in PVAMC managed facilities. Investigators are responsible for performing observations on animals that come under item 2. Investigators can contract with the VMU for VMU personnel to conduct observations of animals that come under item 2; arrangements must be made with the VMO in advance, and a fee will be charged for this service. VMU personnel are available 24 hours every day to respond to animal emergencies; personnel may be reached by calling 940-5243.