

**PORTLAND VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER  
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (PVAMC IACUC)  
ANIMAL CARE AND USE GUIDELINES**

I have been advised of the following guidelines.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**GUIDELINES FOR STABILIZATION OF NEWLY ARRIVED RESEARCH AND  
TEACHING ANIMALS**

**Background.** The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Eighth Edition, revised 2011) states that each shipment of animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychologic, and nutritional stabilization before their use. The need for a stabilization period has been demonstrated in mice, rats, guinea pigs, and other species. Effects of transport, large temperature fluctuations, as well as changes in feed, water, and housing conditions are physiologic stressors which can impact both animal health status and research results.

**Guidelines.**

Following transport to a VMU facility, animals should be maintained in their home cages for at least 48 hours prior to use in teaching or research activities. This is considered to be a minimum amount of time to allow for a period of initial physiologic, psychologic, and nutritional stabilization. The length of time necessary for stabilization depends on the species involved, type and duration of transport, and intended use of the animals. The researcher should evaluate whether additional stabilization time would be necessary and appropriate.

The IACUC feels that this guideline represents an expected standard of animal care and should be followed. However, the IACUC understands that animals may be excluded from coverage of this guideline and utilized within 48 hours of arrival for the following reasons:

- 1) Animals are to undergo immediate terminal procedures.
- 2) Circumstances beyond the control of the investigator require the immediate use of the animals to prevent the loss of a research project.