



**Duke University
Animal Care & Use Program
Policy**



ACCLIMATIZATION / STABILIZATION OF ANIMALS

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: To provide physiologically stable biologic models for research.

BACKGROUND: The “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals”, upon which AAALAC bases its accreditation guidelines, states that, “...newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychological, and nutritional stabilization before their use.”

ROLES:

1. Research and DLAR staff will abide by the position statement below unless there is documented PRIOR approval for an exemption.
2. Medical concerns, training needs, or emergencies as determined by the DLAR veterinary staff may exempt an animal from the acclimation period.

PROTECTIVE POSTURES REQUIRED:

1. Animals under acclimatization / quarantine should not come in contact with animals already on study.
2. Animals should be considered ‘infected’ unless adequate information confirms the disease free nature of the animals.

OUTLINE OF POLICY:

1. All newly received animals generally require a minimum of 48 hour acclimation period before any experimental use.
2. Literature provides evidence that many physiologic factors are significantly affected by transportation and an appropriate acclimation period will ultimately help reduce those variables in experimental procedures.
3. Exceptions to the 48-hour acclimation period will require a written justification included in the protocol.
4. The completion of the 48-hr acclimation period IS NOT a replacement for the quarantine period that may be required for certain animals, or in certain situations.
5. Quarantine periods and conditions are defined by DLAR.