IACUC Policy for Managing Exemptions from Standards of Care

The intent of this policy is to clarify the types of exemptions from standards of animal care, and the procedure for requesting and reporting such exemptions.

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1. Policy
a. The IACUC may grant standing exemptions for certain procedures. Such exemptions do not require that a separate exemption be filed by the PI nor do they need to be described in the protocol, except as relevant to the protocol.
   - Current standing exemption:
     i. The IACUC voted to exempt from air flow recommendations, those animal rooms specifically used for housing fish and naked mole rats. (Approved April 10, 2003).

b. Deviations from regulatory standards or CARE approved SOPs, which are detailed in the following sections in the IACUC protocol; do not require a separate exemption form. Such deviations are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the annual review of the protocol.
   i. Housing Outside Approved Facility (Sect. 11)
   ii. Transportation of Animals (Sect. 12)
   iii. Enrichment and/or Exercise (Sect. 13.5)
   iv. Clinical Care, Quarantine, Acclimatization and Daily Care (Sect. 13.6)
   v. Euthanasia Methods (Sect. 13.11)

c. When deviations from standard husbandry practices (e.g. sanitization of objects/housing, size of primary or secondary enclosures, materials used for housing or enrichment) are proposed, the PI must request an exemption via eSirius and the IACUC must review and approve the exemption every six months.

2. Procedure
a. The request for an exemption (either as described in the appropriate section of the eSirius protocol [see 2.b above] or in the separate exemption section 13.14 [see 2.c above]) is reviewed by the IACUC and must be approved prior to instituting the deviation from standards.

b. The exemption is reviewed either annually (as described in 2b) or every 6 months (as described in 2c, Section 13.14 of eSirius).

c. For exemptions listed in Section 13.14, the investigator must post the IACUC approval for the exemption in the animal facility.
d. If the exemption is no longer needed, the PI must file an amendment to remove the exemption.

e. If any revisions are made to an approved exemption, the PI must file an amendment in eSirius, and the amendment must be approved by the IACUC prior to instituting the change.

f. Exemptions involving USDA species, filed in section 13.14 are included in summary form on the annual report to USDA.

3. Regulatory Mandates and Guidelines
   a. USDA AWR 9 CFR Part 2 Subpart C
      i. 2.31(d)... The IACUC shall determine that the proposed activities are in accordance with this subchapter unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented in writing...
      ii. 2.31(d)(1)(xi)...Methods of euthanasia must be in accordance with the definition of the term set forth in 9 CFR ...unless a deviation is justified for scientific reasons, in writing, by the investigator
      iii. 3.8(d)...A research facility may be exempted from the requirements of this section [exercise for dogs] if the PI determines for scientific reasons that ...that it is inappropriate for certain dogs to exercise.  Such exemption must be documented in the proposal and must be reviewed at appropriate intervals as determined by the Committee, but not less than annually.
   b. PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
      i. C.1...the IACUC shall confirm that the research project will be conducted in accordance with the AWA insofar as it applies to the research project, and the research project is consistent with the Guide unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented.
   c. Guidelines
      i. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (ILAR, 1996) [the Guide]
      ii. Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals Used in Agricultural Research and Teaching (FASS, Jan 1999) [the Ag Guide]

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