

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee		UNT Health
Title: Acclimation Periods		
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A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requires an acclimation period for all animals arriving at UNT Health DLAM.
- b. An acclimation period allows animals time to stabilize in a new environment to enhance reproducible experimental results. According to *The Guide*, page 111 “... newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization before their use.”

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of Principal Investigators and lab staff to follow the acclimation period guidelines listed below.

C. PROCEDURES

- a. All laboratory species are covered under this SOP.
- b. All newly received laboratory animals must be held for a minimum number of days without any experimental manipulation for acclimation, observation and treatment.
- c. Table 1 provides the requirements for each species. For terminal procedures, the required acclimation period is shorter.
- d. Exceptions to the Acclimation Periods for Laboratory Animals policy will require either a written justification included in a protocol or amendment reviewed by IACUC.
- e. Animals under acclimation/quarantine should not come in contact with animals already on study.
- f. Medical concerns, training needs, or emergencies as determined by the DLAM Veterinary Staff may exempt an animal from the acclimation period.

Table 1. Days required for acclimation

SPECIES	before survival procedures	before terminal procedures
Rats, Mice	3	0
Hamsters, Gerbils	3	0
Rabbits, Guinea Pigs	3	2
Pigs	5	3
Other Species	Contact DLAM Manager	Contact DLAM Manager

D. REFERENCES

- a. [The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(2011\), National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.](#)