

The University of Alabama Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Policy on Satellite Animal Facilities

Definition: As defined by Federal law, a Satellite Animal Facility is any area holding animals outside the central animal care facility for more than 12 hours. Satellite facilities are typically located in a laboratory and hold animals for a short period of time for a procedure that cannot be done in the central animal care facility. However, any housing area at UA that is outside the central animal care facility is designated as a satellite facility. Federal regulations state that the authority and oversight of these facilities rests with the institution through the IACUC. The delegated authority for the oversight of these areas has been assigned to the Animal Care Program (ACP).

It is the general policy of the University of Alabama Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to centralize animal facilities as much as possible. The scientific needs of some research programs or particular phases of some projects may not be able to be accommodated within the central animal care facility. In those cases, satellite housing is needed. Satellite animal facilities will be approved in cases where there is an exception, and the appropriate environment, housing, care and oversight can be provided as required by federal law and current UA policies. The Guide indicates that convenience alone is not sufficient justification to maintain animals in satellite housing.

All animal facilities and satellite facilities at the University of Alabama must be approved by the IACUC and fall under the jurisdiction of the ACP. Because a satellite facility is outside the central animal care facility, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) to ensure that all federal regulations, as defined by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Animals*, as well as all of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for care and use of the animals are carried out, seven days a week, 24 hours per day. It is also the PI's responsibility to see that all personnel having incidental exposure to the animals while in the laboratory are included in the Occupational Health Program. It is the responsibility of the PI to assure that all laboratory personnel involved in handling animals are appropriately trained in animal care and use. Veterinary and Animal Welfare Compliance Officer oversight remain the same as if the animals were in the central animal care facility. Semi-annual IACUC inspections are required of each Satellite Animal Facility. Failure to meet these responsibilities could result in the loss of Satellite Animal Facility status. Satellite facilities requires that an ACP designee, normally the PI or other personnel on the protocol, to check the facility daily to confirm proper animal care and assure animal health. Animal husbandry must be done by the PI under the supervision of ACP. Any animal illness, injury, or anticipated abnormal behavior shall be reported promptly to staff veterinarian. Disposal of animal carcasses shall be conducted in accordance with guidelines developed by the ACP.

Satellite Animal Facilities must follow all applicable federal regulations, the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and all UA policies and guidelines. Failure to meet these responsibilities will result in the loss of Satellite Animal Facility status.

The required steps for development of a Satellite Animal Facility at UA are:

1. Inspection of space by the IACUC and EHS
2. SOP for the use of Satellite Animal Facility
3. IACUC access to the Satellite Animal Facility
4. IACUC approval of Satellite Animal Facility