

Policy: SC-20-106  
Date: 2/2/2016  
Enabled by: Guide  
AWA  
Ag Guide  
PHS  
Supersedes: 10/05/2013

## **Title: Identification of Animals**

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I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum requirements for identification of research and teaching animals.

II. Policy:

Animals must be clearly identified while housed in primary and/or secondary enclosures, and when being transported from the vivarium to laboratory study areas.

III. Procedure:

Animal's primary enclosures must be labeled with at least the principal investigator's name and the approved protocol number. If an animal is individually identified, the label should include the animal ID.

If it is not possible to label the primary enclosure, the secondary enclosure must be labeled or a system must be in place to assure accurate identification of the animals.

Animal units housing animals in group enclosures (e.g. livestock, avian) with individual identification may use an alternative method to labeling the primary or secondary enclosure as approved by the IACUC/Attending Veterinarian.

Animal identification procedures must be documented in animal unit's standard operating procedures.

Documentation must be easily accessible to identify which protocols animals are assigned to.

Rodent and rabbit cages must have cage cards labeled with the following information: source of the animal, the strain or stock, principal investigator, pertinent dates, protocol number, the sex and number of animals in the cage.

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Fish Tanks need the protocol number, PI and number of fish on the enclosure. Similarly reptiles, amphibians and other tank/terrarium housed species also need PI, Protocol and number of animals.

Animal cages or carriers used to transport animals from the vivarium to laboratory study areas must always be clearly marked with the principal investigator's name and the approved protocol number.

Livestock, nonhuman primates, cats, dogs, ferrets and rabbits shall be individually identified by a method that is appropriate for the specific species, for example ear tags, collars, bands, ear notches, tattoos, freeze brands or micro-chips. Refer to species specific husbandry policies for appropriate methods.

Rodents can also be individually identified to ensure accurate records by ear notching, ear tags, micro-chipping, tattooing and toe clipping. Refer to Rodent Husbandry Care policy for species specific information.

Refer to the IACUC Policy on Genotyping/Identification for guidance regarding appropriate methods of identification and genotyping.

Principal Investigators must indicate on the cage card for rodents and enclosure for larger animals any manipulations that may affect the animal's health or final disposition.

They must also indicate any treatment or dosing with any material that will **affect** the handling, PPE requirements, disinfection and/or disposal of bedding, carcass or other materials in contact with the animal. For example, the use of hazard stickers to identify rodents that have been treated with hazardous materials, or indication of anesthetic administration, human materials etc.

The Vivarium Hazard Safety Sheets (VHSS)/Room Lab Safety Sheet (RLSS) will stipulate those things that need a special label/sticker on the enclosure and/or cage, that is in addition to the required written information on the cage card. A second card may be used for experimental/hazard information, provided it is visible to those entering the room.

Exceptions to the social housing policy will also be noted on the cage card, room door, enclosure, and/or medical record. (See social housing policy for detailed information). There needs to be an onsite indication that the social housing policy is being followed and exceptions have been recognized, evaluated and identified.