

Policy: SC-32-300  
Date: 8/18/2015  
Enabled by: IACUC/AV/  
ILAR/APHIS  
Supersedes: 10/6/2013

## **Title: Husbandry Care for Dogs**

---

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for dogs.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for dogs must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the Public Health Service Policy (PHS), and the **ILAR** *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eight Edition (Guide)*

III. Procedure:

**Daily:**  
**(365 days a year without exception)**

- Observe each animal and check for health concerns.
- Record sick and dead animals and report them to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per AV Veterinary Care policy <http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/TRACS/vcp>.
- Feed each animal at least once daily, except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care (AWA 3.9). Feed must be appropriate for the animal's age and condition, consult with the veterinarian for any questions regarding appropriateness of feed stuff.
- Provide sufficient potable water. At least twice daily for at least 1 hour each time if not provided ad libitum.
- Any changes or restrictions to normal food and water need to be approved in an Animal Care and Use Protocol unless for medical reasons and deemed necessary by CVS
- Expiration dates for food must be readily available.
- Food requiring refrigeration must be labeled with date opened and date of expiration. For additional information on food storage refer to the Standards of Care for Food Storage (<http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/TRACS/soc/SC-50-100>)
- Food and water receptacles must be rinsed daily

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

- Excreta and food waste must be removed daily from the primary enclosure and as often as necessary from under the enclosure to prevent accumulation of feces and food waste (AWA 3.11(b)(2)).
- When steam or water is used dogs must be removed from the primary enclosure, unless the enclosure is large enough to ensure the animals would not be harmed, wetted, or distressed in the process. Standing water must be removed from the primary enclosure (AWA 3.11(a)) or dry prior to the animal being returned.
- Hard surfaces (including run walls and resting boards) with which the dogs come in contact must be spot cleaned daily.
- Floors or surfaces made of dirt, absorbent bedding, sand, gravel, grass, or other similar material must be raked or spot cleaned with sufficient frequency to ensure animals freedom to avoid contact with excreta.
- .
- Record Minimum and Maximum Temperatures.
- Clean and organize room. Ensure excess materials and supplies are removed.
- Record completion of room tasks, initial and date log sheet.

### **Weekly:**

- Provide a clean whelping box and resting box to pregnant and nursing animals and clean resting board if rest board is used.
- Surfaces (i.e., houses, dens, and other furniture-type fixtures and objects) that cannot be readily cleaned and sanitized, must be replace when worn or soiled (AWA 3.1(c)(1)).

### **Biweekly (at least every 14 days):**

- Clean and disinfect runs. Dogs must be removed from the run to avoid contact with the disinfectant and runs must be squeegeed to avoid the animal from becoming wet.
- Clean and disinfect food and water receptacles, whelping boxes and resting boxes. Clean more often if necessary to prevent accumulation of dirt, debris, food waste, excreta, and other disease hazards (AWA 3.11(b)(2)).
- Clean and disinfect or change environmental enrichment. Disposable items should be discarded as soon as they are worn or soiled Refer to Standard of Care Environmental Enrichment for Animals.

### **Quarterly( Every 3 Months):**

- Clean and disinfect the secondary containment area where primary enclosures are located.

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

### Identification:

- Dogs (weaned pups and older) must be individually identified in addition to having an appropriately labeled cage card. Dogs can be permanently identified with a collar and tag, ear tattoo or micro-chip. If dogs are micro-chipped, the reader must be readily available and functioning.

### Environmental Enrichment:

- Refer to the AV Environmental Enrichment policy There must be an established exercise plan for dogs. The following two examples do not require additional opportunity for exercise:
  - 1) Individually housed dogs with two times the minimum required floor space do not require additional exercise (see table below for recommended floor space).
  - 2) Grouped housed dogs maintained in cages that provide each dog with 100% of the minimum required floor space per dog do not require additional requirements.
- Dogs should be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate species typical movement. Some examples of enrichment for dogs include: Nylabones, Kong toys, resting boards, exercise pens, food treats, and social housing.
- Devices used for environmental enrichment must be easily cleaned and disinfected or disposable.
- Devices must be checked regularly for wear and discarded when excessively worn or when safety hazards are present

### Social Housing:

- Single housing of social species should be considered the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being. Whenever possible dogs should be socially housed and when they cannot the period of time should be kept to a minimum and those animals should be offered positive interaction with animal care staff and offered additional enrichment items or addition of companion animal in the room or housing area. (*Guide pg. 64*). Refer to the IACUC Policy on Social Housing.

### Euthanasia:

Facility managers and veterinary staff may euthanize sick or cull animals following approved methods in the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

### Facilities:

#### Indoor housing:

- Temperature alarms must be installed in all rooms housing dogs.
- Temperature must not fall below 45 °F or rise above 85 °F for more than 4 consecutive hours (AWA 3.2(a)). If the temperature falls outside this range for

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

four consecutive hours, Physical Plant and Facilities Maintenance must be contacted. Dry bedding, resting boards or other methods for conserving body heat must be provided when the temperatures are below 50 °F.

- There must be a minimum of 10-15 fresh room air exchanges for indoor housed animals (Guide pg 46). Ventilation must be provided by windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning. Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers, or air conditioning must be provided when the temperature is 85 °F or higher (AWA 3.2(b)).
- Flooring should be solid, perforated, or slatted with a slip-resistant surface. In the case of perforated or slatted floors, the holes and slats should have smooth edges. Refer to Standard of Care for Physical Plant and Facilities Maintenance

### **Shelter housing:**

- Temperatures must not fall below 50 °F for dogs not acclimated to lower temperatures, for breeds that cannot tolerate lower temperature (i.e., short-haired breeds), and for sick, aged, young, or infirm animals, except as approved by the AV. Dry bedding, resting boards or other methods for conserving body heat must be provided when the temperatures are below 50 °F. Temperature must not fall below 45 °F or rise above 85 °F for more than 4 consecutive hours.
- Ventilation must be provided by windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning must be provided when the temperature is 85 °F or higher.
- Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers, or air conditioning must be provided when the temperature is 85 °F or higher.
- Sheltered housing facilities must be lighted well enough to permit routine inspection and cleaning of the facility and observation of the animals.
- Animals must be provided adequate shelter from the elements at all times to protect their health and well-being.

### **Outdoor housing:**

- Non-acclimated animals must not be kept in outdoor facilities when the temperature is less than 50 °F.
- Clean, dry bedding must be provided when the temperature is below 50 °F. Additional clean, dry bedding is required when the temperature is below 35 °F.
- Shelter structures must be provided so each animal has enough space to lie, sit, stand, and to turn freely. In addition this type of the housing must provide protection from direct sun rays and from the effects of direct wind, rain, or snow.

### **Caging**

- Run/Caging must be in good condition and free of damage that may cause injury. Both the *AWA* and *Guide* requirements for floor space per dog must be followed. Cage height should be sufficient for the animals to comfortably stand erect with their feet on the floor. The cage height must be at least 6 inches higher than the head of the tallest in the enclosure when it is a normal standing position (AWA 3.6(c)(1)(iii)).
- Space calculation for dogs: (length of dog in inches + 6) x (length of dog in inches + 6) = required floor space in square inches. Required floor space in

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

inches/144=required floor space in square feet. The length of the dog is measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail (AWA 3.6(c)(1)(i)).

Dog space requirements based on *the Guide* (pg 59)

Weight of Animal	Floor Area/Animal (ft <sup>2</sup> )
<15 kilograms	8.0
Up to 30 kilograms	12.0
> 30 kilograms	≥24.0