

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Policy: SC-33-400
Date: 6/15/15
Enabled by: The Guide,
The Ag Guide
AWA, PPM
Supersedes: 9/30/2013

Title: Husbandry and Handling of Sheep

I. Purpose:

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

II. Policy:

All units providing care for sheep must meet or exceed these minimum requirements, which are based on the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (the Ag Guide). Sheep used in biomedical research and non-standard Ag practice teaching must additionally meet the requirements in the Animal Welfare Act and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, current edition.

III. Procedure:

Daily:

(365 days a year without exception)

Observe each animal and check for health concerns, which must be documented with the date. Record sick and dead animals. Certain injuries or herd health concerns may be treated by facility managers per facility SOPs and do not need to be reported to a veterinarian. Consult with a clinical veterinarian for other health concerns or if potential herd health issues are observed.

Check feed- animals should be fed daily an amount that takes into consideration the nutrient density of the feed and the nutrient requirements of the animal. Exceptions to daily feeding must be approved in animal care and use protocols through the IACUC. Expiration dates for bagged feed must be readily available per Campus Standard of Care on Food Storage. If a manufacturer's mill date is not available, indicate date received.

Check water- sufficient clean water must be available in a consistent manner to meet the animal's daily needs under all environmental conditions.

Enclosures:

Enclosures must be in good condition and free of damage that may cause injury. Every animal should have sufficient space to move about at will, adequate access to feed and water, a comfortable resting site, and the opportunity to remain reasonably dry and clean.

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Refer to Table 10-1 of the Ag Guide for specific space recommendations.

<http://www.fass.org/docs/agguide3rd/Chapter10.pdf>

Social housing should be considered the default for housing animals according to the IACUC policy on Social Housing of Social Species.

Enclosures need to be cleaned according to the SC 50-104 policy regarding Cleaning and Disinfecting Stalls, Runs and Enclosures for Large/Agricultural Animals

Handling and Transport

Whenever possible, animals should be moved in a relaxed manner at a normal walking speed with minimum noise to reduce stress and prevent behavioral agitation in alleys, chutes and trailers. When necessary, nonelectrical driving aids such as paddles, flags, and panels may be used. The use of electronic prods may only be used as a last resort to move an animal after repeated attempts with non-electrified driving aids have failed. When an electric prod needs to be used, it should be applied to an area such as the hindquarters of the animal. It should never be applied to sensitive areas of the animal such as the eyes, ears, genitals, udder, or anus. When handling sheep, the natural tendency for flocking behavior should be considered and used advantageously and, more importantly, in the best interests of the animal's health and welfare. Animals should be gated off into smaller groups during transport to prevent injuries.

Shearing:

All wooled sheep need to be sheared at least annually, although some groups may be shorn more frequently.

Special Considerations: For animals that may enter the food chain, the policy on Quality Assurance - Drug Residues and Labeling of Drugs Used in Food Animals must be followed