

UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Policy:	SC-33-700
Date:	6/15/15
Enabled by:	The Guide, The Ag Guide, AWA, PPM
Supersedes:	10/5/2013

Title: Husbandry and Handling of Camelids (llama and alpaca)

I. Purpose:

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

II. Policy:

All units providing care for camelids 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). Camelids 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 so their daily intake is appropriate for 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. 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

If trees or geographic features do not provide enough protection, artificial shelters and (or) windbreaks or sunshades should be provided. Shelters should provide protection from the elements. Dimensions should be sufficient to allow camelids to make normal postural adjustments at will, including lying down in sternal or lateral recumbence.

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. When handling camelids, herd behavior should be considered and used advantageously and, more importantly, in the best interest of the animal's health and welfare. Animals should be gated off into smaller groups during transport to prevent injuries.