



**Policy for  
Request to Use Laboratory Animals Outside Vivarium**  
First Draft 12/2/10, Revised 2/17/11 (UH IACUC Approved  
2/17/11, 1/12/17)

Use of laboratory animals outside of the vivarium is restricted to projects in which Principal Investigators (PIs) can satisfactorily justify to the UH Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), that other alternatives for performing the procedures in the vivarium are not viable options. In general, procedures outside of the vivarium should be limited to those where 1) equipment is not available in the vivarium. That is, equipment that cannot be moved into the vivarium due to physical size, infrastructure or space limitations, or are only available at remote sites such as MRI. Or 2) there are space limitations in the vivarium to perform specialized procedures. Or 3) The species is incompatible with being housed in the vivarium, as determined by the AVS Director. The PI must receive UH IACUC approval before any animal activity can be conducted outside the vivarium. Requests to use animals outside of the vivarium will be reviewed by the UH IACUC on a case-by-case basis through the IACUC protocol process.

The reasons for restricting live animal activity outside of the vivarium include:

- Lack of appropriate air handling and secondary containment to properly control potential allergens and odors that may adversely affect personnel in public spaces and laboratories.
- Areas holding and using animals need to be in compliance with the appropriate Animal Biosafety requirements found in the Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL), 5<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Public sensitivity for use of animals in research may draw undesirable attention when they are transported or used in public areas.
- Escape or injury by an animal containing recombinant DNA is reportable to NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA). PI may be asked by the IACUC to develop SOPs for these potential problems in their spaces.
- Control of infectious outbreaks (e.g. rodent infectious diseases or parasites) in the vivarium are difficult to contain, as outside labs where animals are used may serve as a nidus of infection if not thoroughly decontaminated along with the rest of the vivarium. The PI may be asked to cover some of the expenses of decontaminating their spaces where animals are used outside of the vivarium in the event of an outbreak.
- Potential for PIs to perform non-approved procedures outside of the vivarium.
- Potential for temporary holding to become satellite facilities if animals are housed for greater than 12 hours outside of the vivarium. Spread of facilities and sites puts more burdens on the limited resources and increases potential risk to the UH Animal Care and Use Program.
- Ensuring that animals are properly disposed of after use and their final disposition is accounted for through Granite census management is more difficult to do when animals leave the vivarium.

If the UH IACUC approves animal activities outside the vivarium, the PI must contact the AVS Operations Manager at least two weeks prior to moving animals outside of the vivarium, in order to ensure that proper training of your staff is completed and documented.