

Summary of Exceptions to the Standards and Regulations of the AWA Annual Report of Research Facility 2012

Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University
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The following exceptions to the standards and regulations of the AWA are specified and explained by the principal investigator and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). A summary of all such exceptions follows and is hereby amended to the annual report.

I. Exception to: CFR; Title 9, Volume 1; 9CFR, 3.81

Sec. 3.81 Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being. (a) *Social grouping. The environment enhancement plan must include specific provisions to address the social needs of nonhuman primates of species known to exist in social groups in nature. Such specific provisions must be in accordance with currently accepted professional standards, as cited in appropriate professional journals or reference guides, and as directed by the attending veterinarian.* (2) *For a research facility, the Committee may exempt an individual nonhuman primate from participation in some or all of the otherwise required environment enhancement plans for scientific reasons set forth in the research proposal. The basis of the exemption shall be documented in the approved proposal and must be reviewed at appropriate intervals as determined by the Committee, but not less than annually.*

The IACUC has exempted male nonhuman primates on IACUC-approved protocols from group / pair housing for scientific and safety reasons. The issue of group / pair housing male primates was discussed at length by our IACUC and deemed to present too many risks to the animals and handlers as well as to the scientific research. This issue is discussed annually by the IACUC during review of the Environmental Enrichment Program and during protocol review. In general, co-housing of male primates is not advised due to dominance interactions. Fighting, aggressive grooming, and aggressive sexual behavior could lead to severe injury. The risk is especially high following cranial surgery when one monkey has a head implant that can become infected or become loosened by an overly attentive cage mate. Even under close human supervision, the possible need for human intervention to stop potentially injurious behaviors by the animals incurs unacceptable health and safety risks to the human. A minimum of two non-human primates are housed in the animal rooms at all times. These nonhuman primates are maintained within visual and audio contact of each other and receive environmental enhancement according to the IACUC-approved Non-Human Primate Environmental Enrichment program.

Species: *Macaca fascicularis*
Number in this reporting year: 9

II. Exception to: CFR; Title 9, Volume 1; 9CFR, 3.83

Sec. 3.83 Watering. *If potable water is not continually available to the nonhuman primates, it must be offered to them as often as necessary to ensure their health and well-being, but no less than twice daily for at least 1 hour each time, unless otherwise required by the attending veterinarian, or as required by the research proposal approved by the Committee at research facilities.*

The IACUC has approved exceptions for nonhuman primates on protocols in which water restriction is used as a means of positive-reward conditioning. Behavioral training is accomplished by operant conditioning techniques using water / juice as positive rewards. Therefore, non-human primates are maintained on controlled water intake schedules to achieve good behavioral performance. Water is provided *ad lib* on days when no recording sessions are scheduled. In the evening prior to the behavior training / recording day water is removed over night. The day of training / recording the non-human primate's water intake is provided during a 4-6 hour recording session as reward and the total amount is recorded. After the session water is provided either *ad lib*, when no training is scheduled the next day, or *ad lib* for at least two hours in the evening before the next day's training session. Body weights are tracked and recorded routinely to ensure that baseline body weight is maintained or expected weight gain is as anticipated (for younger primates). Food intake and health of the nonhuman primates is monitored by the veterinary and animal care staff.

Species: *Macaca fascicularis*

Number in this reporting year: 2