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Attachment 2

Exceptions to the Regulations and Standards

The following is a list of activities that may be exceptions to the regulations and standards. These only apply to research involving the use of ground squirrels and they only apply while the ground squirrels are in hibernation. All exceptions were approved by the IACUC during protocol review. All 4 exceptions apply to all 74 ground squirrels.

1. The temperature in the e-chamber required for hibernation of ground squirrels is outside of the normal range for housing rodents. Justification: Hibernators depend on low temperatures to effectively hibernate.
2. Euthanasia of squirrels by decapitation without anesthesia while squirrels are in torpor. Justification: Low respiratory and heart rates during torpor means that drug administration or CO₂ asphyxiation is ineffective.
3. Squirrel cages in e-chambers are not changed on a regular schedule while squirrels are in torpor. Justification: The normal squirrel cage changing and sanitation is once per week. However this exception applies only while squirrels are in torpor. Changing cages would actually be detrimental to the squirrels as it would induce arousals from torpor. While in torpor the cages are not changed or sanitized during the entire duration of torpor.
4. Food may be removed from squirrel cages to induce torpor. Justification: Squirrels normally spontaneously become anorexic, but on occasion torpor needs to be induced using food withdrawal.