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Summary of IACUC Approved Exceptions to the AWA:

1. Cage Sanitation for Nonhuman Primates During CDC Quarantine (SRC):

   The Animal Welfare Act requires sanitation of the primary enclosure of nonhuman primates "at least once every 2 weeks and as often as necessary to prevent an excessive accumulation of dirt, debris, waste, food waste, excreta, or disease hazard."[1]

   This variance would allow an extension from the AWA requirements for the first cage sanitation following receipt from a 14 day to 18 day maximum interval. If the first cage sanitation during quarantine is delayed for four days during the CDC mandated quarantine period, this will synchronize sanitation procedures with Tb testing, thus reducing the number of times the animals must be sedated.

   During any period when the sanitation extension is in place, cages will be visually monitored by Husbandry personnel during standard daily room cleaning and any "grossly soiled" cages (e.g., excessive amounts of debris which may contain unacceptable concentrations of microorganisms or affect normal behavior) will be reported to Colony Manager/Supervisor or a Clinical Veterinarian. Then necessity of cage change will be discussed and determined by these personnel taking into consideration each animal's condition and status.

   This exemption is requested to reduce stress on the animals and to stabilize food consumption during the quarantine and stabilization period by reducing the number of times the animals must be sedated.

   The total number of animals affected by this variance during the reporting year was 358.

2. Exception: Minimum Space Requirements for Group 1 and 2 Housing (SRC)

   The Animal Welfare Act states "the minimum space that must be provided to *each* nonhuman primate, whether housed individually or with other nonhuman primates, will be determined by the typical weight of animals of its species."[2] Nonhuman primates are divided into 6 groups by species and size. Group 1 is defined as "marmosets, tamarins, and infants (less than 6 months of age) of various species." The table detailing minimum space requirements by group determines that animals falling into Group 1 must meet the following criteria for housing: Weight – under 2.2lbs or under 1kg; Floor area – 1.6 ft sq or 0.15 m sq; Height – 20" or 50.8 cm. Group 2 is defined as "capuchins, squirrel monkeys and similar size species, and juveniles (6 months to 3 years of age) of various species. Minimum housing requirements for Group 2 are: Weight – 2.2 – 6.6 lbs or 1 – 3 kg; Floor area – 3.0 ft sq or 0.28 m sq; Height – 30" or 76.2 cm.

   An exception from the aforementioned regulations is requested to allow for the reduction of housing space for infants requiring incubation care. On occasion, it is necessary to place infants in incubators for clinical reasons, or for body temperature support following maternal rejection. In these cases, infants may be housed in incubators until they are able to thermoregulate and a suitable social partner is available.

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[1] Animal Welfare Act Regulations, 9 CFR, Volume 1, Section 3.84, Paragraph (a)
[2] Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter I, Part 3, Subpart D, Section 3.80 (b)

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Incubators do not meet the minimum requirements for Group 1 or Group 2 housing. This request is to waive the sizing requirements for the duration of incubation as determined by a veterinarian. Infants will be removed from incubation and placed in housing meeting or exceeding the minimum standards as set forth in the regulations when a veterinarian determines this change will be beneficial to the health and welfare of the infant.

The number of animals impacted by this variance during the reporting year was five.

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