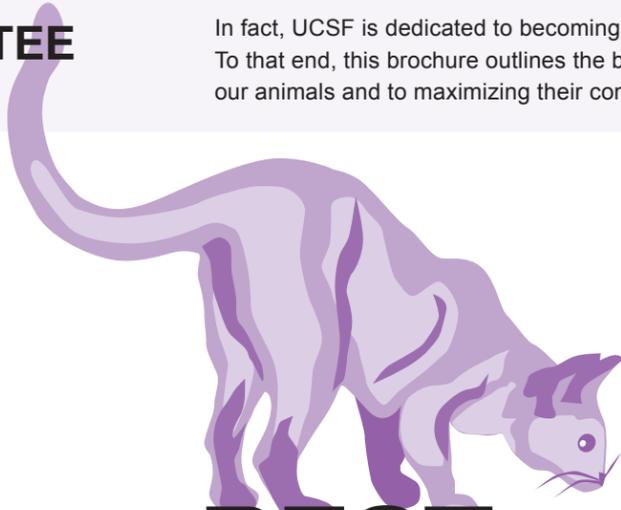
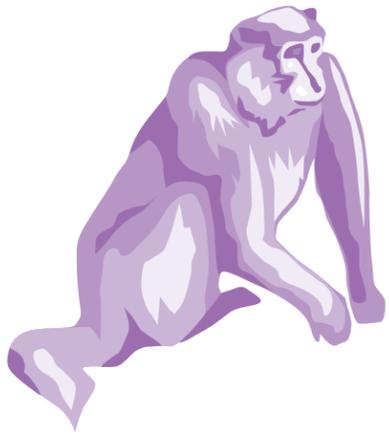




INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE information for researchers

Conducting high-quality research is essential to UCSF's mission of advancing human health. Animal research in particular is highly regulated, and UCSF is committed to full compliance with all regulatory agencies and oversight groups. Beyond what laws and regulations dictate, we recognize that laboratory animals are living creatures that deserve to be treated with care and compassion.

In fact, UCSF is dedicated to becoming the national model for animal research and care. To that end, this brochure outlines the best practices possible for ensuring the well-being of our animals and to maximizing their comfort and welfare.



BEST PRACTICES FOR ENSURING QUALITY CARE OF RESEARCH ANIMALS

Document any observations, analgesics or therapeutic administrations.

- Be thorough and complete about documenting in the medical record.
- Remember — if it's not written down, it didn't happen.

Communicate with veterinary staff regarding the health status of post-procedural animals.

- If an animal develops any complications after procedures, you must communicate those complications with the veterinary staff and document this in the medical record.
- Communicate with veterinary staff both before and after procedures, regardless of the animal's condition.

Develop a reliable system for detecting, diagnosing, and treating animal weight loss early on.

- Develop cumulative chart records where weights of each animal can be graphed and visualized over the long term.
- Weigh your animals frequently and on a regular schedule.
- Pay close attention to any weight loss.
- Communicate animals' weight loss to the veterinary staff or IACUC.
- Be sure to report to the veterinarian if an animal's weight loss reaches the maximum allowed in your approved protocol.

Perform only those procedures described in the protocol.

- Ensure that everyone on the protocol is familiar with all its procedures, and that they understand the protocols must be followed to the letter.
- There can be no deviation from a protocol without prior approval from the IACUC.

Observe post-procedure animals according to the schedule outlined in the approved protocol.

- Follow the protocol exactly as written, even if it means assessing animals in the middle of the night.
- If monitoring frequency seems too stringent, request a modification of the protocol from the IACUC to allow more flexibility.

Allow only investigator staff listed on the protocol to perform procedures on animals.

- Assure that all staff are added to the protocol and have been thoroughly trained to perform all procedures requested of them.

Ensure all substances in animal use areas are usable.

- Institute a program to monitor all substances on a monthly basis.
- Label any item that is not for animal use "for in vitro use only."
- Label any item that is expired and will be used in acute procedures "for acute use only." IACUC permission must be obtained prior to use.

Store animal feed properly.

- Make sure animal feed has not reached its expiration date.
- Store animal feed in vermin-proof containers off the floor.

Label syringes.

- Always label syringes with contents to be used on live animals and dispose of properly after use.

Store controlled substances in secured locations.

- Always lock up all controlled substances.



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