

I. Purpose

UCSF is committed to ensuring that all animals are ensured appropriate housing in all animal husbandry. This policy has been developed to ensure that UCSF complies with the Guide for the Care and Use of Animals, 8th Edition, and the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations.

II. Regulatory or Accreditation Authority

9 C.F.R. Part 3, Standards, §§ 3.7, 3.33, 3.58, 3.133.

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition, November, 2013, p. 112. Separation by Health Status and Species. "Physical separation of animals by species is recommended to prevent interspecies disease transmission and to eliminate the potential for anxiety and physiologic and behavioral changes due to interspecies conflict"

III. Scope

This policy applies to all animals cared for at UCSF.

IV. Policy

In general, all animals at UCSF are separated by species and microbiological status. A small number of different species may be co-housed in a very small number of rooms. (See **Appendix A**)

Co-housing of different species may be permitted if there is need and if the two species are of similar pathogen status and behaviorally compatible. The need to co-house animals of different species can be the result of factors such as space limitations, research needs, sentinel requirements and/or equipment availability, or other reasons approved by the IACUC.

IACUC Appendices for Co-Housing of Species

Appendices are provided as IACUC suggestions or recommendations. Deviation from the attached appendices may require IACUC approval.

Appendix A: Species Approved for Co-Housing in the Same Animal Housing Room IACUC Approved: October 2014

1. Compatible Rodent Species
 - a. Examples include rats and mice, gerbils and hamsters, guinea pigs and mice etc.
 - b. In all such cases, the animals have a similar pathogen status.
 - c. Animals are housed in individually ventilated cages or static microisolator cages.

2. Sentinel mice and other rodent species
 - a. A single cage of sentinel mice per rack may be cohoused in a housing room for other rodent species such as voles, hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs.
 - b. Sentinel mice are tested on a quarterly or semi-annual basis and provide important information on the health status of the colony.

3. Finches
 - a. Finch species may be comingled as part of an IACUC approved research project.

4. Non-human Primates
 - a. *Macaca mulatta* and *M. fascicularis* may be housed in the same room, and they are presently the only two species of old world primates in use at UCSF.

5. Aquatic Animals
 - a. Turtles, frogs and salamanders may be housed in the same housing room.
 - b. Separation of each species occurs at the cage/tank level.
 - c. All nets and animal handling equipment remains separate between species.