

# **UM PROGRAM**

## **FOR REVIEWING THE HOUSING OF DIFFERENT SPECIES IN THE SAME ROOM**

According to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, “Physical separation of animals by species is recommended to prevent interspecies disease transmission and to eliminate anxiety and possible physiologic and behavioral changes due to interspecies conflict.”

Whenever possible, animals of different species should be housed in separate rooms.

When there is adequate justification for housing animals of different species in the same room, the facility manager or supervisor must present the justification to the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM) veterinarian assigned to the facility by submitting a “Request for Exception to Standard Operating Procedure” form. The completed form must be accompanied by a list of principal investigators (phone numbers included) housing animals (species indicated) in the room in question.

Upon receipt, the ULAM veterinarian will review the request to verify that the justification is adequate, and that the housing arrangement will not jeopardize the health or well-being of the animals involved. However, housing rats and mice in the same room is acceptable without special review, provided that the protocol establishes adequate rationale (i.e., reviewed by UCUCA) and that the mice are in ventilated caging and receiving 100% fresh air.

If the justification and proposed housing arrangements are acceptable from a veterinary perspective, and if no adverse effects or concerns are identified, the ULAM veterinarian will approve the “Exception” form and return a signed copy to the facility manager or supervisor. If one or more principal investigators express a concern, the proposed housing arrangement may not be implemented until the concerned principal investigators’ animals have been relocated to their satisfaction.

The approved “Exception” form should be prominently posted in the animal housing room, and should be renewed prior to expiration following the same procedure.

#### Related Documents:

- ULAM Standard Operating Procedure “Instructions for Preparing Exception Forms for Housing Multiple Species in the Same Room”
- ULAM Standard Operating Procedure “Exception Request Form”

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