

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Institutional Biosafety Committee

Transfer and Disposition of Animals Utilized in Infectious Agent Research

Scope

This policy applies to all infectious agent research conducted at Iowa State University regardless of funding.

Definitions

Animal: Any live or dead warm-blooded, vertebrate animal.

Infectious agent: Any virus, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, multicellular parasites and aberrant proteins known as prions that can cause a communicable disease in humans or animals.

Containment: The term containment is used in describing safe methods for managing infectious materials in the laboratory environment where they are being handled or maintained. The purpose of containment is to reduce or eliminate exposure of laboratory workers, other persons, other animals, and the outside environment to potentially hazardous agents.

Background

Infectious disease research is one of the many important types of research conducted at Iowa State University. It is important to ensure proper containment of any infectious agents utilized. Therefore, the Livestock Infectious Disease Isolation Facility (LIDIF) and Building 40 were constructed to serve as animal containment facilities where infectious disease research on vertebrate animals could be safely conducted and operated according to Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) and Animal Biosafety Level 2 (ABSL-2) standards.

In general, infectious disease research requiring BSL-2 and ABSL-2 containment should be conducted in LIDIF or Building 40 as appropriate for the species. Infectious disease research on small animals such as rodents can occur in many buildings on campus. For these species, containment is usually at the room level and the cage level. Use of individually ventilated racks is recommended for BSL-2 work in rats and mice. Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the following:

- The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to assure that the proposed facilities are appropriate to the species
- The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) to determine the appropriate biosafety level requirements including the appropriate protection for personnel from potential exposures to pathogens or infectious agents (e.g., wearing personal protective equipment)
- The Attending Veterinarian to assure the research does not impact the health and well-being of other animals in the alternate facility
- The facility manager of the proposed alternate facility for scheduling purposes

Policy

Animals

All animals known to be experimentally exposed to infectious agents must be disposed of according to the EH&S Sharps and Biohazardous Waste Flowchart. If approved by the IACUC and IBC, these animals may be used on another study within the same building.

Animals not exposed to infectious agents and not housed in the same room as exposed animals may be transferred to another Iowa State facility with similar or greater containment for use in another research study.

If the investigator wishes to declare potentially exposed animals as clean, a procedure of testing and isolation will be used to transition the animals to a cleared status by a program established by the Attending Veterinarian with approval by the IBC and the animal facility manager(s) based on a risk assessment provided by the investigator. This would only involve animals exposed to strict animal pathogens and not human pathogens or live recombinant organisms.

Transfer or reassignment of animals exposed to recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, or exposed to any organism(s) resulting from the use of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, or any subsequent generation of such animals, must be approved by the IBC.

If the new housing location was not included in the original application for compliance committee approval, the investigator must submit a protocol amendment to the IACUC and the IBC.

Animal Tissues

Animal tissues known to be experimentally exposed to infectious agents must be disposed of according to the EH&S Sharps and Biohazardous Waste Flowchart. Necropsies and tissue collection will be done only in preapproved areas for these activities.