

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy on Separation by Species, Source, and Health Status

Introduction

Physical separation of species housed at the University is important and necessary in many cases. Interspecies aggression can cause anxiety and physiological changes. Additionally some species may carry infectious disease agents that could cause severe disease or death in other species. Control of infectious disease in laboratory animals requires that populations that may vary in microbial status be segregated. In this regard, it is effective to separate animals according to species, source, and health status. This document describes the IACUC policy for separation of animals by these criteria.

Policies/Procedures

1. Animals may not be housed in the same room as animals of other species. Exceptions are:
 - a. Nonhuman primate nursery where the veterinarian has determined that the social interactions between species will be beneficial
 - b. When both groups of animals are housed in ventilated racks (HEPA filtered air in and out creating micro-isolator conditions) and have been determined to not have a natural predator prey relationship.
2. Animals from separate vendors/sources should **not** be housed in the same room, unless they have completed a quarantine period and have the same health status of the other animals in that room or are part of a breeding colony being maintained and propagated.
3. Animals of different microbial or pathogen status are not to be housed in the same room.
4. Animals from the same vendor, but different shipments, may be housed together after they have all successfully completed quarantine.