Purpose:

The *Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide)*\(^1\) states that animals should be provided housing with sufficient space and supplementary structures and resources to meet their physical, psychologic, and behavioral needs. The purpose of this policy is to establish an environmental enrichment program for providing additions to animal environments in order to ensure well-being through expression of typical behaviors.

I. Policy

A. Animals maintained at an SIUC housing facility will be provided species-appropriate environmental enrichment as part of standard husbandry.

B. Animals maintained at an IACUC approved satellite housing area will be provided environmental enrichment by the Principal Investigator (PI) or other protocol personnel.

C. Environmental enrichment plans (EEPs) should promote the well-being of research animals without compromising personnel safety, animal health and safety, or the goals of the research.
   1. Examples of species-specific enrichments is maintained by USDA National Agricultural Library.\(^2\)

D. Animals may become accustomed or indifferent to enrichment devices. Enrichment provisions should be assessed regularly by investigators and husbandry staff for benefit to animals and congruence with current knowledge. Assessments and observations are communicated to the Attending Veterinarian (AV) in writing.

II. Procedures

A. The IACUC shall oversee compliance with this policy through annual review and approval of environmental enrichment plans and conduct of semi-annual facility inspections.

B. Exceptions to environmental enrichment must be justified in an Animal Use Protocol (AUP)\(^3\) and approved by the IACUC.

C. Written EEPs for species maintained at SIUC housing facilities will be maintained and disseminated to investigators by facility management staff.

D. Written EEPs, as part of a standard operating procedure for husbandry, for species maintained at an IACUC approved satellite housing area must be approved by the IACUC prior to implementation and annually thereafter. SOPs are maintained and disseminated protocol personnel by the PI.

---

IACUC Policy #: 500
Policy Title: Environmental Enrichment for Animals Used in Research and Teaching
Date Approved: December 19, 2018
Date Reviewed:
E. With input from investigators and husbandry staff, the Attending Veterinarian will review environmental enrichment plans annually, prior to the spring semi-annual program review by the IACUC.

1. The AV will make suggestions for revisions/rotations necessary to encourage curiosity and discourage negative behaviors.

2. The IACUC will review updated EEPs during the spring semi-annual program review and may approve or suggest further modification prior to implementation.

III. References


2 https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/environmental-enrichment

3 Link to Protocol Form