

Policy on Alternative Housing of Experimental Animals

Purpose:

All animals used for research, teaching, and testing are to be housed in the Brandon University Animal Facility, unless application for field work or alternative housing has been made. Housing of animals outside of Animal Facility can increase the risk to the animals and to the people around them. As such, alternative housing of experimental animals that exceeds 12 hours will be dealt with on a case by case basis, and will only be granted when scientifically justified and when the housing conditions meet Brandon University and Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) standards.

Policy:

Where alternative housing for experimental animals is required, the Principal Investigator must demonstrate/provide details as specified by BUACC and CCAC policies, including but not limited to:

1. Scientific justification for alternative housing;
2. Plan for the care of the animal(s), including granting unlimited access to the Animal Health Technologist, Consulting Veterinarian(s), and their delegates to the alternative housing and the experimental animals, with their authority to manage all animal welfare issues as described in BUACC and CCAC policies, procedures, and guidelines;
3. Location of records, including standard operating procedures and veterinary records.

To be granted alternative housing for experimental animals is a privilege and not a right, and requires formal application to BUACC prior to use. All BUACC and CCAC policies, procedures, and guidelines are applicable.

Procedures:

If there is a requirement for special animal housing arrangements that include housing of experimental animals outside the BU Animal Facility for more than 12 hours, Schedule 4 – Alternative Animal Housing shall be completed by the Principal Investigator and submitted to buacc@brandonu.ca when submitting an Animal Care Application Form (Teaching/Research) or Animal Care Renewal Form (Teaching/Research). If the requirement arises for special animal housing arrangements after approval of the Animal Care Application Form (Teaching/Research) or Animal Care Renewal Form (Teaching/Research), Schedule 4 Alternative Animal Housing shall be submitted with an Animal Care Amendment Application Form to buacc@brandonu.ca. If the alternative housing request is approved, fees may be applied to the Principal Investigator for costs such as Consulting Veterinarian fees.

The consulting veterinarian(s) should visit the site at least twice (2) per year. The BUACC should visit the site at least once (1) per year.