TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (TTUHSC)  
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) 
POLICY [# 3]

BREEDING COLONIES

The purpose of a breeding colony protocol is to generate animals for use in approved experimental protocols. Breeding colony protocols must be submitted separately from experimental protocols.

Principal investigators (PI) wishing to establish a breeding colony at any TTUHSC campus facility must submit a breeding protocol application to the IACUC. The application form is available at: http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sponsoredprograms/acuc/documents/Protocol.docx

Prior to submission of a breeding protocol, a PI must contact the staff at the corresponding Laboratory Animal Resource Center (LARC at Lubbock, Abilene, Amarillo, El Paso) regarding space availability and housing requirements. Once the breeding colony has been established, an animal use record must be maintained by the PI. This record will include the number and disposition of all animals produced. The staff at the LARC can advise investigators about the required colony records though the ultimate responsibility remains with the PI.

Counting of animals

In counting animals for breeding protocols, the PI must include every animal, male and female, and not count “breeding pairs.” In preparing the breeding protocol, the PI must also estimate the number of animals needed to perform the breeding, not the number of animals required for the experimental protocol (although knowledge of the number of animals required for the experimental protocol may be necessary in estimating the number of breeding animals needed).

It is recognized that animals will enter and exit the breeding program over the life of a breeding protocol. However, every animal used as a breeder in a breeding colony must be accounted for. Animal numbers in the application should reflect the total number of animals anticipated to be used as breeders over the three-year period for which the protocol is approved, not the number of active animals at any given time. Further, it is the responsibility of the PI to work with the appropriate LARC staff to determine how many breeding animals the LARC can accommodate at any given time. The LARC will have control over the number of breeding animals that can be actively housed as breeders.

At weaning, all pups must either be counted as new breeding animals or research animals. Reasonable accommodation can be made for a period of genetic testing, if in the best interest of the animals and justified in the protocol application.

Investigators must avoid waste of animals. Government Policy III (found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm#USGovPrinciples) states: "The animals selected for a procedure should be of an appropriate species and quality and the minimum number required to obtain valid results. Methods such as mathematical models, computer simulation, and in vitro biological systems should be considered. For example, there may occur periods of time when experimental protocols do not require a continued production of animals, yet the need for the breeding colony will recur in the future. The IACUC suggests that temporary measures, such as separation of breeders, be implemented during such periods of time.

Reviewed, Revised and Approved by the TTUHSC IACUC: 12/12/14