

**POLICY REGARDING QUARANTINE AND STABILIZATION OF  
RESEARCH ANIMALS**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to detail the quarantine and stabilization process for animals arriving to Liberty University from sources other than approved commercial vendors.

**POLICY:**

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states that “Quarantine is the separation of newly received animals from those already in the facility, in a way that prevents potential spread of contaminants, until the health and possibly the microbial status of the newly received animals have been determined.” (p. 110). *The Guide* also states that “regardless of whether the animals are quarantined, newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, behavioral, and nutritional acclimation before their use”. (p. 111).

Animals arriving to Liberty University from sources other than an approved commercial vendor must undergo a quarantine period prior to their use. This protection is in place to minimize the potential for the introduction of disease into existing colonies.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Inform the university veterinarian that animals will be acquired from an outside source (non-commercial vendor or institution) so that he or she may establish an appropriate quarantine period, determine the potential risks, and if necessary, assign proper treatment.
  - a. In certain cases, if data from the source is sufficient to determine the health status of the animal(s), the university veterinarian may bypass the quarantine process.
2. Regardless of quarantine status, all animals shall be given a minimum of 72 consecutive hours to acclimate to the new environment.
  - a. No major experimental procedures may be performed during this acclimation period, unless explicitly approved by the IACUC in the animal use protocol.
  - b. For larger animals, an acclimation period of 5 days may be appropriate, as determined by the university veterinarian.

Failure to acclimate research animals may result in adverse effects on animal health and subsequently, research data.

Any faculty transferring animals from other institutions are required to consult the university veterinarian and the IACUC.