



POLICY

Stress associated with shipping can have effects on physiological systems in laboratory animals. All newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, behavioral and nutritional acclimation before their use. An acclimation period allows animals time to stabilize in a new environment and promotes both animal welfare and reproducible experimental results.

If animals are received for a terminal procedure, there is no requirement for an acclimation period. Researchers should consider though what the impact will be on their experimental results if no acclimation period is provided.

Animals received for survival procedures must be given a minimum of 72 hours for acclimation prior to their use. If an exception is required to the 72 hours, it must be reviewed and approved in the IACUC protocol.

REGULATION

Guide for the Care of and Use of Laboratory Animals, ILAR, NAS, Eighth Edition 2011, pg 111: Regardless of whether the animals are quarantined, newly received animals should be given a period for physiologic, behavioral, and nutritional acclimation before their use (Obernier and Baldwin 2006). The length of time for acclimation will depend of the type and duration of animal transportation, the species, and the intended use of the animals. For animals not typically housed in research settings, consideration should be given to providing means to assist with their acclimation (e.g., shearing sheep before they are brought indoors). The need for an acclimation period has been demonstrated in mice, rats, guinea pigs, nonhuman primates, and goats and time for acclimation is likely important for other species as well (Capitanio et al. 2006; Conour et al. 2006; Kagira et al 2007; Landi et al. 1982; Prasad et al. 1978; Sanhouri et al. 1989; Tuli et al. 1995).