

Usage of Short-Term Animal Facilities

NU has the goal of ensuring that all animal facilities on the NU campus meet the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) standards. Short-term-facilities are under full responsibility, supervision and control of the IACUC and fulfil important functions for the research community.

Currently two facilities exist that are located in S1 on the main campus and in the NUSOM/UMC building. These facilities are designed and equipped to house mice and rats.

I. IMPORT OF ANIMALS FROM OUTSIDE NU

Before animals can be transferred to NU animal facilities from outside the following steps must be taken:

1. Permission from the Head of the Animal Unit must be obtained (currently NU has two units, one at NLA and one at NUSOM. The Head of Units needs to be appointed and have to be approachable.
2. Permission from the Chair of the IACUC has to be given before the import of animals. The applicant will need to provide the following information ahead of importation to the appropriate Head of the Animal Unit:
 - a. Approval by Head of Animal Facility.
 - b. IACUC approval for the project in which the animals will be involved.
 - c. Report (if available) on health statues of animals, should the health statues not be available and apparently not comply with guidelines set by NU, permission will not be granted.
 - d. Number and type of animals to be kept.
 - e. Start and end date of animals stay in the facility.
 - f. Schedule of experiments to be done.

II. TRANSFER OF ANIMALS INSIDE OF NU

In order for animals to be transferred between NU animal facilities, the Head of the Animal Facility receiving the animal, i.e., in which the animals are to be housed, has to give permission.

III. MAINTAINING & BREEDING OF ANIMALS

As long as the central animal facility of NU (Vivarium) is not available, animals can be housed for up to 12 months. Breeding of animals can be done on a small scale under the following circumstances:

1. Permission granted by the Head of Animal Unit and confirmed by the IACUC committee.
2. Permission from the IACUC Committee for the breeding of animals. The applicant needs to provide the following information by submission of an application.
 - a. Number of animals involved.
 - b. Time frame.
 - c. Reasoning for breeding rather than buying in.

The status and regulations concerning the short-term-facilities will be reviewed at least on an annual basis and amended if required. The status of the short-term-facilities will be entirely reviewed once the Vivarium is in place and fully functional, to better comply with international standards for short-term-facilities.