

## **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER**

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

##### **Exercise and Socialization of Dogs**

Objective: University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Attending Veterinarian have established this policy to provide opportunities for exercise and socialization of dogs.

RESPONSIBILITY: The LAF will provide exercise opportunities and record-keeping.

##### **PROCEDURES:**

1. Dogs housed at UMMC are provided opportunity for exercise, unless there is a justifiable reason to restrict activity, by housing the animals in pens.

These pens will provide at least two times the required space for individually housed dogs or at least 100% of the required space for each dog if housed in groups. This policy applies to all dogs over 12 weeks of age. (For calculation of space requirements, see Animal Welfare regulations, Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.6(c)).

2. All dogs over 12 weeks of age housed individually in primary enclosures that provide less than twice the minimum space requirement will be provided an opportunity for exercise by LAF personnel. Dogs will be provided an opportunity to exercise by opening the run doors and allowing the dogs to run in the area outside of the pens, either individually or in compatible groups. These dogs will have a minimum of 10 minutes of exercise per session at least 3 times per week. LAF staff will interact with the dogs during this period to encourage exercise. The opportunity for exercise may occur simultaneously when runs/pens are cleaned. Kong toys, balls, nylabones and other suitable items may be used for additional enrichment.
3. If a dog is maintained at the facility without sensory contact with another dog, it must be provided with positive physical contact with humans at least daily. This will consist of a minimum of petting, brushing, sitting with, and/or playing with the dog for at least 15 minutes daily.
4. Immediately after exercise and human interaction, the individual providing this care will record the time, type and length of time on the Room Daily Observation Sheet.

##### **EXEMPTIONS FROM EXERCISE:**

1. If dogs cannot be exercised for experimental reasons, the investigator must provide scientific justification for the exemption in the IACUC protocol and this exemption must be approved by the Committee. (e.g. Canines in metabolic housing are individually housed to protect infusion lines and electrical connections.)
2. If a dog cannot be exercised for medical reasons, the attending veterinarian must document and review the exemption every 30 days in the medical record of the dog. If the condition is permanent, the attending veterinarian must identify the condition and need for permanent exemption in the medical record of the dog.

IACUC Approved 2/19/13