

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

POLICY STATEMENT

Social Housing of Nonhuman Primates

The default position of USDA and OLAW is that non-human primates must be socially housed. The Guide (2011) states, "... *nonhuman primates should normally have social housing (i.e., in compatible pairs or in larger groups of compatible animals)*". Exemptions to the social housing requirement must be based on **strong scientific justification** approved by the IACUC or for a specific veterinary or behavioral reason.

Single housing of social species should be the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being (Guide 2011). Exemptions to this policy may be evaluated based on the experimental and/or clinical requirements of the particular animal.

- Scientific-related requests for an exemption to social housing must be submitted to the IACUC, by completing Appendix A of the Animal Activity Protocol form. Such limited requests will be reviewed by the full committee at a convened meeting. If approved, such exemptions may be valid for up to one year, consistent with the annual continuing review of the protocol (AWR 3.81 (e)(2)).
- Veterinary-related concerns will be initiated by the AV(or designee) and focus on temporary single housing due to the NHP's health or condition, or in consideration of its well-being. These exemptions must be re-evaluated and documented by the AV (AWR 3.81 (e)(1)).
- Upon arrival at UMMC the LAF will begin the procedure to establish compatible pairs or groups of animals during the quarantine period according the [SOP for NHP Social Housing](#).
- Established pairs/groups will be maintained once animals enter experimental protocol unless an exemption is granted by the IACUC or veterinary concerns.
- After surgical or veterinary procedures, the animals should be put back with companion(s) as soon as possible.

IACUC Approved 12/18/12