1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (ACUP) is to describe the routine husbandry procedures at Cornell University’s dog facilities. This ACUP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This ACUP is intended for use by dog facilities’ staff and Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE) at Cornell University staff.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. This ACUP provides general husbandry dogs housed at research and/or teaching facilities at Cornell University. These outlined procedures are intended to assure that dogs are maintained in a healthy, clean, and productive environment. Contact CARE at care@cornell.edu for more information or for assistance.

4. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

4.1. Scale
4.2. Toe nail clippers
4.3. Bathing and grooming supplies
4.4. Feed
4.5. Bedding

5. PROCEDURES

5.1. Observation of Animals

5.1.1. Daily (Including Weekends and Holidays):

5.1.1.1. Observe all dogs for illness, injury, and general condition.
5.1.1.2. Report any illness / injuries to facility manager, Principle Investigator (PI) and CARE veterinary staff.

5.1.2. Monthly (or More Often as Needed):

5.1.2.1. Conduct more detailed observation of all dogs including, but not limited to, general condition, fur, thorax and abdomen, ears, limbs, and foot pads.
5.1.2.2. Weigh the dogs.
5.1.2.3. Provide basic care such as ear cleaning, toenail clipping, and bathing (could be more often as needed) as needed.

5.2. Animal Identification Methods

5.2.1. Identify each dog held in the research facility with the official USDA tag, tattoo, microchip, or collar applied by the facility that individually identifies the dog by number. Regulation 9 CFR 2.3g1.

NOTE: Un-weaned puppies need not be individually numbered as long as they are maintained in the same primary enclosure as their dam (9 CFR 2.38g3).

5.3. Records and Documentation

5.3.1. Keep a log of events, including medical procedures, for the life of the dog.
5.3.2. Maintain records on procurement, transport and disposal of all dogs and an inventory of dogs in the facility.
5.3.3. Refer to ACUP 542 Maintaining Health and Procedure Records for Research and Teaching Animals.

5.4. Feed

5.4.1. Feed animals to meet and maintain proper body condition per current National Research Council recommendations for canine nutrition.
5.4.2. Feed Storage:

5.4.2.1. Store feed bags on pallets off the floor and 4–6 inches away from walls, in a vermin-proof storeroom and open feedbags in leak-proof containers with tightly fitting lids.
5.4.2.2. Maintain temperature and humidity control in the storeroom. Store feed at temperatures below 70° F and avoid extremes in humidity.
5.4.2.3. Use milled feed within six months of the milling date.
5.4.2.4. Stack feed in a manner that allows easy reading of the milling date.

5.4.3. Feeding:

5.4.3.1. Design and place feeders to allow easy access to food and to minimize contamination with urine and feces. Allow enough space and feeding points for group housed animals to minimize competition for food.
5.4.3.2. Feed adult dogs at least once a day, unless otherwise recommended by attending veterinarian or PI. Feed may be adjusted based on body weight, condition, and activity level and / or on advice of the veterinary staff or PI. Follow the appropriate facility SOPs and ACUP 618 Perinatal Care of the Dog for dietary requirements of breeding bitches and puppies.

5.4.3.3. Minimize changes in diet and make them only according to recommendations by the facility veterinarian in conjunction with the Principal Investigator.

5.4.3.4. Offer fresh, potable, water ad lib. Check automatic watering devices daily, and flush them weekly, for proper operation and cleanliness, or whenever there is a suspicion of malfunction.

5.5. Social and Environmental Enrichment

5.5.1. For socialization and exercise, refer to ACUP 546 Socialization and Exercise for Research Dogs.

5.5.2. Provide enrichment devices in the room or cage (e.g., benches or chew toys). Minimally, rotate enrichment items at the time of sanitization.

5.6. Quarantine Procedures

5.6.1. Dogs from approved vendors (e.g., Marshall Farms) are not required to be quarantined.

5.6.2. Contact CARE for information regarding dogs from any other source.

5.7. Euthanasia and Disposal of Dead Animals

5.7.1. Euthanize dogs as per ACUP 307 Euthanasia of Non-Rodent Mammals.

5.7.2. Dispose of dead animals through Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) waste management facility or via a commercial disposal service.

5.8. Pest Control

5.8.1. Refer to ACUP 538 Vermin Program for a description of the vermin control program.

5.9. Housing

5.9.1. Space Requirements:

5.9.1.1. Follow the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) Regulations and the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for space requirements.
5.9.2. Room Temperature:

5.9.2.1. Maintain room temperatures between 64.4° F to 84.2° F. Maintain relative humidity between 30% and 70%, and provide 10 to 15 complete air changes per hour of 100% outside air.

5.9.3. Room Lighting:

5.9.3.1. Provide a regular diurnal lighting cycle. Lights are controlled by timers with a photoperiod of 12 to 14 hours of light. Check the timer performance regularly.

5.9.4. Bedding:

5.9.4.1. Unless dogs are housed on appropriate elevated floor, provide approved bedding (e.g., wood shavings, shredded paper or cellulose).
5.9.4.2. Use a sufficient quantity of bedding to keep the dogs clean and dry.
5.9.4.3. Store the bedding off the floor on pallets and in such a manner to prevent contamination.

5.9.5. Resting Apparatuses:

5.9.5.1. Primary enclosures with suspended flooring: provide a resting board or other method to facilitate keeping the dog clean and dry.
5.9.5.2. Direct contact flooring: provide bedding or a resting apparatus to allow the dogs a comfortable place to lie and reduce body heat loss.

5.10. Cleaning and Sanitization of Primary Enclosures and Equipment

5.10.1. Clean primary enclosures daily to remove excessive amounts of dirt and debris. When enclosure cleaning is done by hose, the dogs must be allowed space to avoid overspray.
5.10.2. Disinfect all surfaces at least every 14 days to reduce or eliminate microorganisms.

NOTE: The animals must not be in direct contact with the disinfectant.

5.10.3. Clean and sanitize equipment thoroughly at least every two weeks, more frequently if needed.

5.11. Transportation

5.11.1. Transport dogs in commercial poultry boxes in accordance with ACUP 547 Animal Transport Outside Animal Facilities.

5.12. Waste Management

5.12.1. Deposit non-regulated or non-infectious Medical Waste and soiled materials in dumpsters.
5.12.2. Regulated (or infectious) Medical Waste is processed through CVM Waste Management, following EH&S policy.

6. PERSONNEL SAFETY

6.1. Medical Emergencies: CALL 911.

6.2. Working with dogs in a kennel setting can be very loud. Check with the facility manager regarding requirements for hearing protection.

6.3. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Refer to the CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage for more information.

7. ANIMAL RELATED CONTINGENCIES

7.1. Post contact information for emergency assistance in a conspicuous location within the animal facility.

7.2. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays by calling the CARE (pager 1-800-349-2456)

7.3. Non-emergency veterinary questions & requests for care, email CARE veterinary staff at care@cornell.edu.

8. REFERENCES


8.11. CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage: http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/OHS.html

9. APPENDIX

9.1. None
10. HISTORY

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