Subject: Canine Exercise and Environmental Enrichment

BACKGROUND

This policy expands on the WSU “Environmental Enrichment and Behavioral and Social Management of Research Animals” as it relates to canines. The requirement for the exercise of dogs is set forth under section 13(a)(2)(B) of the AWA (7 U.S.C., 2143). The standards for the exercise of dogs are set forth in 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A - Animal Welfare, Part 3, Section 3.8.

IACUC POLICY

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee requires that all canines participate in this program. If, in the opinion of a veterinarian, any portion of the WSU Canine Exercise and Enrichment Plan is deemed inappropriate for certain dogs due to their health, condition, or well-being, such dogs will be exempted from applicable portions of the plan. Such exemptions will comply with section 3.8 (d) (1) and (3) of the USDA Exercise for Dogs regulations. Certain dogs may be exempted from portions of the Exercise for Dogs Plan by a veterinarian on behalf of the Principal Investigator providing such exemptions comply with section 3.8 (d) (2) and (3) of the USDA Exercise for Dogs regulations.

IACUC Guidelines

Exercise Plan

- Additional opportunities for exercise will be provided for dogs over 12 weeks of age held for over 7 days and housed individually in enclosures that provide less than two times the required floor space per dog.

- Additional opportunities for exercise is optional for dogs housed individually in enclosures providing more than two times the required floor space per dog; or for group-housed dogs in enclosures providing in total 100% of the required space for each dog if maintained separately.

Exercise Recommendations

Methods to accomplish the above will include the following for ALL dogs:

- Whenever possible, individual dogs will be housed in runs providing two times or greater the required floor space.

- Group-housed dogs will be housed in runs providing at least the minimum of required floor space per dog.

- Whenever possible individual or group-housed dogs will be moved to a larger space/enclosure during the time required for routine run sanitation.

- On a daily basis, occupants housed in runs will be allowed to roam singly or in groups in the open corridor within the room while specific runs are being cleaned. This will be permitted only if individuals within the room are compatible and fighting between run fronts is not likely to occur.

- All exercise opportunities will be conducted in a fashion that best safeguards the health of all dogs.

- Newly-arriving dogs will be segregated from long-term stabilized dogs by physically distancing them in a separate room.
addition routine husbandry and physical examination of long-term dogs will be performed prior to providing such services to newly-arrived dogs. Newly-arrived dogs will not be housed in the same room as long-term dogs until they have satisfactorily completed the necessary quarantine period. The health status of dogs will always to be considered to avoid introducing healthy animals to potentially contaminated areas.

**Environmental Enrichment Plan**

- All dogs will participate in the enrichment plan.

- All dogs will be provided with visual and auditory sensory contact with other dogs when in regular housing conditions.

- Daily animal caretakers will gently talk to and pet dogs at time of routine feeding and enclosure cleaning.

- Dogs that exhibit signs of behavioral abnormalities (stereotypic behavior, aggressive or overly timid behavior, hyperactivity) will purposefully have their periods of positive human contact and exercise opportunities extended by frequency and duration.

- Radios may be placed in the room. Volume shall be set at low/medium and an automatic timer will be utilized and set to coincide with light cycle.

**Reference**

A plan for canine exercise is required by the USDA Animal and Health Inspection Service; Animal Welfare Act-Subchapter A; 9 CFR Ch.II (1•1•01 Edition); section 3.8 Exercise for dogs.