

Plan for Exercise Opportunities for Dogs

Exercise Opportunities for Dogs:

1. In accordance with 9 CFR, Subpart A, Section 3.8 of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the following comprises the plan provide dogs with the opportunity to exercise.
2. This opportunity for exercise will be accomplished in a variety of ways including individual housing of dogs in enclosures that are at least twice the required minimum size, group housing of dogs in an area that provides the minimum required square footage for each individual dog, or exposing the dogs to open exercise areas at daily intervals.
3. Dogs involved in research projects will be housed in runs, each with dimensions of 5' X 8', providing floor space of 40 square feet per run. Dogs up to 47.6 inches long (tip of nose to base of tail) can be individually housed in these enclosures and will have twice the minimum required floor space. Compatible dogs may be group-housed in these runs by using the table below; as long as no dog in the group is longer than the length indicated.

#OF DOGS	LENGTH (INCHES)
2	47.6
3	37.7
4	31.9
5	27.9
6	24.9
7	22.7
8	20.8
9	19.3

It is not expected that dogs longer than 47.3 inches would be used in a research project. However, should that occur, runs will be constructed from portable fencing to accommodate larger animals in any of several approved animal rooms. This portable fencing will also be used in the event that the number and /or size of the dogs received exceed the capacity of the permanent runs. Additionally, all dogs will be provided the opportunity to exercise in a larger space on a daily basis when their pens are cleaned.

4. An attempt is made to pair-house compatible, same-sex dogs that are assigned to chronic studies (> 3 weeks in duration) in the facilities. Dogs that are apart of surgery protocols will not be pair-housed.
5. If a dog is singly housed, a veterinary technician and/or husbandry technician assigned to the area will be responsible for providing at least 10 minutes of positive interactive physical contact on a daily basis. Exceptions to this plan must be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and records must be maintained on dogs housed under these exceptions.
6. Five days a week, dogs are released into the exercise are, minimum, twice a day with a compatible mate. The run floors are washed and any equipment in the run (e.g. resting board, etc.) is cleaned. Approximate contact/socialization time is about 10 minutes per wash interval (only one daily wash down is in effect on weekends).
 - a. During pairing of compatible, same-sex dogs in the exercise area, one or more persons will observe the dogs to prevent or minimize aggressive encounters.
 - b. Purpose-bred dogs from the same vendor minimize the likelihood of disease transmission. Soiled areas in the exercise space are rinsed with hose water between each exercise interval.
7. If, in the opinion of the attending veterinarian, it is inappropriate for certain dogs to exercise (i.e. post-operative dogs), they may be excluded from the exercise program for the appropriate period. This exemption, in addition to overall condition, will be documented in the individual dog health record. The attending veterinarian will review each case at least every 30 days.

Note: During Renovations of the Berg Animal Facilities, the dog rooms and exercise areas may have to relocate from designated rooms.