Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

Satellite Animal Facility Policy

Date of IACUC Review and Approval: April 5, 2019

I. Purpose:

The Brown University IACUC has adopted the following policy to provide clarity on the use of a Satellite Animal Facilities at Brown.

II. Background:

*The Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition* states that the design of animal facilities combined with appropriate animal housing and management are essential contributors to animal well-being, the quality of animal research, teaching or testing programs involving animals, and the health and safety of personnel. Further, all animals should be housed under conditions that provide sufficient space as well as supplementary structures and resources required to meet physical, physiologic, and behavioral needs. Environments that fail to meet the animals’ needs may result in abnormal brain development, physiologic dysfunction, and behavioral disorders (Garner 2005; van Praag et al. 2000; Würbel 2001) that may compromise both animal well-being and scientific validity.

*The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states, further, the IACUC shall determine that the research project conforms with the institution's Assurance and meets the following requirements: The living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding, and nonmedical care of the animals will be directed by a veterinarian or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied.

III. Policy:

It is the policy of both the Brown University IACUC and the Animal Care (AC) that all animals requiring facilities for housing and use are maintained in IACUC-approved, dedicated animal facilities.

The IACUC requires the use of centralized, currently approved animal facilities within our Animal Care and Use Program. Centralized, dedicated facilities allow for enhanced communication at all levels, and consistent and high quality animal care. Clearly identified
roles and responsibilities, and coordinated allocation of resources and funding are additional advantages of centralized and dedicated facilities.

Maintaining animals in areas outside of currently approved, dedicated animal facilities requires significant additional resources from numerous sources, as each animal facility must be maintained in accordance with accreditation standards, oversight agency requirements, and local policies.

IV. Exceptions:

If an unapproved location for animal housing or procedures is proposed, a formal request must be presented to the IACUC and the Attending Veterinarian for review and approval as an additional animal facility in our Animal Care and Use Program. This formal request must come in the form of an amendment to an approved IACUC protocol after consultation with the Attending Veterinarian.

To summarize, compelling scientific or other justification must be submitted to the committee, with a full explanation as to why other approved facilities could not support the work. Cost and convenience cannot be primary considerations for proposing animal care and use in an unapproved facility. A completed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) should also be attached which describes basic husbandry and animal care procedures for the proposed facility.

NOTE: Prior to any IACUC consideration of housing or procedures outside of IACUC-approved areas, the PI should contact both the Attending Veterinarian and the Animal Research Protections (ARPP) office early in the planning process to discuss available options.

V. Additional Considerations:

Department Chairs and faculty members chairing faculty search committees are reminded that the Attending Veterinarian or his/her designee must meet with new faculty recruits that use or intend to use animals in their research during the recruitment period, prior to the extension of an offer. EH&S officers, building and facility managers, and others may also need to weigh in on Satellite Animal Facility discussions. Directors and personnel who manage dedicated facilities should be consulted early in the facility proposal process to determine whether the facility can accommodate or support the proposed animal housing or use.

The IACUC will review satellite facility proposals on a case-by-case basis, and proposals may require review during a full committee meeting. Please note that the IACUC may withhold approval of a satellite housing request if the location is determined to be inappropriate for the species, proposed use, or incongruent with the needs and requirements of the Brown University Animal Care and Use Program.
A written approval notice is sent after all facility and SOP requirements and modifications have been met, and the Attending Veterinarian and IACUC representatives have completed a final inspection. A new location can accept animals after written approval of the Satellite Animal Facility is received from the IACUC office.

**NOTE:** Written notice of a related IACUC Protocol approval is not the same as written notice of a Satellite Animal Facility approval, and an IACUC Protocol approval does not guarantee approval of a related facility.

VI. **References:**

The IACUC relies primarily on the following references to determine the suitability of housing and procedure locations, but know that it is not limited to this list as additional references may be needed:

- Brown University’s OLAW Assurance
- Brown University’s AAALAC Program Description
- The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare is posted on the DHHS website at: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm)
- Brown’s IACUC Policies, as applicable

VII. **Definitions:**

**Dedicated Animal Facility:** An IACUC-approved animal facility designed specifically for animals, managed by dedicated staff. The use of dedicated facilities is required unless exception is justified and approved.
Examples of dedicated animal housing facilities include:

- ACF within the Biomedical Center
- ACF in the 70 Ship Street Building (Laboratories for Molecular Medicine)

**Satellite Animal Facility (SAF):** An IACUC-approved animal facility maintained primarily by an investigator, and outside of direct AC oversight, in which animals are housed for greater than 12 hours (USDA species) or 24 hours (non-USDA covered species).

NOTE: External facilities used for live animal procedures are also considered satellite animal facilities and must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC, prior to use.

VIII. **Additional Notes:**

Note: Brown University does not currently house USDA species outside of approved Brown Animal Care Facilities.

Note: Prior to policy creation, the following satellite animal housing exceptions were approved by Brown IACUC:

- 70 Ship Street - Zebrafish
- BMC – Fish, Frog Embryos, Fish Embryos

Please do not hesitate to contact the ARPP office, the Attending Veterinarian, or AC veterinary staff if there are any questions about animal facilities.