

Washington State University
Program of Laboratory Animal Research

POLICY #1: ACCEPTABLE LOCATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
MAINTENANCE OF ANIMAL HOUSING ROOMS

A. Purpose and Responsibility

The Program of Laboratory Animal Resources (PLAR) is a centralized program at the WSU-Spokane campus. All housing rooms, whether located in the main vivarium of the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences building (PBS), Innovate (IW) or outside the vivarium are under the supervision of the Director of Research Laboratories. The Director reports to the Vice Chancellor of Research with a dotted line to the Office of Campus Veterinarians (OCV).

B. Guidelines

The husbandry program at WSU-Spokane is compliant with the following documents:

- USDA Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations
- USDA Policy Manual
- Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
- AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
- The Zebrafish Book: A Guide for the Laboratory Use of Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)
- WSU IACUC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Policies

C. Policy

1. PLAR Maintained Rooms/Vivarium

- a. Animal Housing Rooms: PLAR staff provides all aspects of daily husbandry care. This includes health observations, cage changes, feed, water, and room sanitation. Investigators may request that the PLAR staff perform technical services (i.e., euthanasia, breeding, tagging, tail snip, weaning). There will be an hourly charge for technical services performed.
- b. Procedure Rooms: The research staff is responsible for the routine cleaning and maintenance of experimental equipment located in dedicated rooms. The PLAR staff will perform a general cleaning of the ceiling, walls, work surfaces and the floor on a scheduled basis.

2. Shared Responsibility of Animal Housing and Procedure Rooms

- a. In select situations, the investigator may assume the primary responsibility for the daily husbandry of animals and/or the procedure room. This requires the agreement of the Investigator, the Director, and the OCV. The room must be inspected and approved by the IACUC before the protocol is approved. The research staff must perform husbandry duties in compliance with the animal care program as outlined by vivarium department SOPs, OCV, and IACUC policies. Documentation practices must be consistent with the practices used in the vivarium. The PLAR staff will perform a general cleaning of the ceiling, walls, work surfaces and the floor on a scheduled basis.