

University of Louisville
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policies and Procedures

Animal Security in Investigator Laboratories

Policy: Animals that are taken to investigator laboratories must be monitored by research Participants. To the fullest extent possible, animals should not be left unattended in laboratories. If animals must be left unattended for *any* period of time, the door to the laboratory ***must*** be locked and remain locked until animals can be removed or monitored.

Rationale: Important aspects of a successful animal care and use program are the security procedures and systems in place to protect the well being of subjects and integrity of data. Corresponding to an overall increase in security issues within research institutions, the IACUC has instituted the following requirements to safeguard animals while in research laboratories.

Procedures, Guidelines, and Exceptions:

1. The use of animals outside of the central animal facilities must be described in an IACUC-approved “Proposal to Use Laboratory Animals in Research and Teaching,” including specific room numbers where animals are to be taken.
2. Transportation of animals must follow IACUC policy “Transportation of Research Animals”.
3. If animals must be left unattended, the laboratory door must be locked and the personnel are encouraged to obscure public view of the animals.
4. During the emergency evacuation of a building, an attempt should be made to secure laboratories holding research animals if conditions allow. However, this policy is in no way intended to undermine the safety of personnel or the procedures outlined in UofL-approved evacuation policies.