



Regulation of food or fluid intake may be required for some physiological, neuroscience, and behavioral research or teaching protocols. Food and fluid regulation comes in two forms.

is typically measured as a percentage of the ad libitum or normal intake or as percentage change in an animal's body weight. allows ad libitum access for a certain amount of time at regular intervals.

This policy does not apply to dietary control as a standard husbandry practice, or for clinical purposes under the direction of a veterinarian.

The development of protocols that use of food or fluid regulation requires the evaluation of three factors: the necessary level of restriction, the duration of restriction, and the frequency of restriction, ensuring that animals consume a suitably balanced diet because food consumption might decrease with fluid regulation.

In the case of conditioned-response research protocols, use of a highly preferred food or fluid as positive reinforcement, instead of regulation, is recommended.

-
- Regulation must be scientifically justified.
 - The least regulation that will achieve the scientific or instructional objective must be used.
 - Objective criteria must be defined (such as weight loss or state of hydration) for temporary or permanent removal of an animal from the protocol.
 - A monitoring program appropriate to the species, duration of regulation, and frequency of regulation must be established for each animal that includes:
 - Daily observation of the animals (including weekends and holidays).
 - Maintenance of a daily log that is kept with the animals that documents:
 - Food and fluid consumption

