

## **Guidelines for the Acclimation of Animals Utilized in Research Following Transportation**

The expectaany planned variation from the guidelines requires prior IACUC approval and must be based on a scientific rationale.

Stress associated with transportation has widespread effects on physiological systems in animals, including changes in the cardiovascular, endocrine, immune, central nervous and reproductive systems. Although short-lived, these changes can confound research if animals are utilized before homeostasis is restored and physiological measures return to normal. (Obernier and Baldwin, 2006).

Regardless of whether the animals are quarantined, newly received animals should be given a period of physiologic, behavioral, and nutritional acclimation before their use (Guide, 2010; Obernier and Baldwin, 2006). The length of time for acclimation will depend on the type and duration of animal transportation, the species, and the intended use of the animals. Researchers should consider how the physiological alterations caused by transport could confound data.

Considering this, any rodents to be utilized in non-terminal research procedures at UGA, which have been transported commercially, should be provided a minimum 3-day (72 hours from arrival)

