

	Title: Environmental Enrichment for Animals	SOP #	AV 30-102
		Version #	1
		Implementation Date	10/14/16
Page #	1 of 3	Next Review Date	10/14/19
Department	Attending Veterinarian		

Standard Operating Procedure

1. Purpose

To ensure that research and teaching animals are provided with environmental enrichment to enhance well-being with sensory and motor stimulation, through structures and resources that facilitate the expression of species-typical behaviors and promote psychological well-being through physical exercise, manipulative activities and cognitive challenges according to species-specific characteristics. (*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*)

2. Scope

All animals should be provided with an environment that enables them to perform species-typical behaviors unless specifically exempted in an IACUC approved protocol.

3. Prerequisites

Refer to species-specific husbandry care minimum standards, as identified in the Attending Veterinarian (AV) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), for appropriate options.

4. Responsibilities

The Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for ensuring minimum species-specific enrichment standards are met for the animals under their care.

5. Procedure

All animals should be provided with an environment that enables them to perform species-typical behaviors unless specifically exempted in an IACUC approved protocol.

Social animals must be socially housed per the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. Any study related exceptions must be approved in the IACUC protocol or by the clinical veterinarian for health related concerns.

Although social housing is the primary form of enrichment for social species, other species-specific enrichment should be offered to socially housed animals.

	Title: Environmental Enrichment for Animals	SOP #	AV 30-102
		Version #	1
		Implementation Date	10/14/16
Page #	2 of 3	Next Review Date	10/14/19
Department	Attending Veterinarian		

Animals that must be housed singly (for experimental requirements, veterinary-related reasons, or social incompatibility) should be individually housed for the minimum time period necessary, and when possible, visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile contact with conspecifics should be provided. In the absence of other animals, additional enrichment should be offered such as positive interaction with the animal care staff and additional enrichment items. If housed alone in a room, the addition of a companion animal in the room or housing area should be provided.

Appropriate enrichments may include occupational enrichments (e.g. toys, chains, devices to increase locomotion), physical/structural enrichments (e.g. nesting material, shelves, nesting boxes, perches), sensory enrichment (e.g. music, video), or nutritional enrichment (e.g. foraging materials, food treats). The enrichments chosen must be appropriate for the particular species.

Uneaten perishable treats must be removed from the cage daily to prevent spoilage.

If devices are used for environmental enrichment they must be easily sanitizable or disposable and discarded at cage change. Devices must be checked regularly for wear and discarded when safety hazards are present or they no longer function as an enrichment device.

There must be an established exercise plan for dogs if floor space is not at least twice the minimum floor space required by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

For nonhuman primates, there must be a written enrichment plan to promote psychological well-being, approved by the IACUC. This plan must be reviewed by the IACUC and signed by the AV at least every three years.

The clinical veterinarian may grant an exemption to any environmental enrichment plan for medical reasons. For nonhuman primates, unless the condition is permanent, the exemption must be reviewed and documented at least every 30 days by the clinical veterinarian.

6. *References*

1. Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources: Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals, National Academy Press, Eighth Edition (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910).
2. Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations. United States Department of Agriculture (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal%20Care%20Blue%20Book%20-%202013%20-%20FINAL.pdf).



Title: Environmental Enrichment for Animals

SOP #	AV 30-102
Version #	1
Implementation Date	10/14/16
Next Review Date	10/14/19

Page #	3 of 3
Department	Attending Veterinarian

3. National Institutes of Health: Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm>).
4. The Federation of Animal Science Societies: Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 3rd Edition, 2010 (http://www.fass.org/docs/agguide3rd/Ag_Guide_3rd_ed.pdf).

7. Definitions

1. AV – Attending Veterinarian – responsible for the health and well-being of all laboratory animals used at the institution
2. SOP – Standard Operating Procedure – established or prescribed methods to be followed routinely for the performance of designated operations or in designated situations
3. IACUC – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee – responsible for assessment and oversight of the institution’s animal care program components and facilities
4. AUP – Animal Care and Use Protocol – protocol created by the principal investigator of the proposed research, testing, or educational study
5. Chair – Chairperson of the IACUC
6. PI – Principal Investigator – a Central Oregon Community College employee having the background and training in scientific and administrative oversight necessary to conduct and manage the proposed study
7. Protocol – Animal Care and Use Protocol

Revision	Author	Revisions Made	Effective Date	Approval
1	Cindy Elston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New SOP • 	10/14/16	Cindy Elston (AV)