It is the responsibility of the Georgia State University (GSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its teaching and research programs that is consistent with federal requirements.

Social Housing of Non-Human Primates

Introduction
The purpose of this policy is to define social housing standards for non-human primates at the Language Research Center (LRC), Georgia State University. The policy also defines exemptions and exceptions to social housing for non-human primates. Captive nonhuman primate species known to exist in social groups in nature must be socially housed in compatible pairs or groups in research facilities, unless there is significant scientific justification or veterinary-related welfare concern requiring single housing.

Social Housing
Non-human primates at the LRC are housed as “full time social housing” or “part time social housing”.

- **Full time social housing** characterized by unrestricted contact with conspecifics in the same primary enclosure.
- **Part time social housing** characterized by unrestricted contact with conspecifics for a defined time period and/or defined frequency. Examples include overnight social housing, intermittent social housing permitted between animal studies, and intermittent direct contact with conspecifics in a group setting for a defined time period.

**Capuchins**
All capuchins have full time social housing with socially compatible con-specifics. They have access to both outdoor and indoor primary enclosures at all times except during research testing, inclement weather, cleaning or cage repair and modification.

**Rhesus Macaques**
The rhesus macaques have part-time social housing. Each rhesus monkey has access to its
IACUC
Addendum to Social Housing of Non-Human Primates
Veterinary Permanent Social Housing Exemption (Lou and Murph)

home cage (a Britz "play cage") which is connected to a "tunnel system." Thus, a given monkey can choose to leave its home cage and enter a section of the tunnel system as an expansion of its home cage. In turn, each tunnel system is connected to an outdoor turnout. Doorways in the tunnel system allow one to control physical access of compatible monkeys to one another and these doorways are opened once a day (M-F) for at least one hour to allow compatible monkeys access to one another to include their outdoor turnout. In addition to the part-time social housing, the macaques are given rotational access as individuals to the outdoor turnouts such that an individual monkey has access to the tunnel system and outdoor turnout approximately every other day (barring inclement weather, this access is for an alternating 24-hour basis). Monkeys which do not have a compatible conspecific do not participate in the part-time social housing. However, such monkeys do still have access to the tunnel system and their outdoor turnout. Such an arrangement has allowed compatible monkeys access to one another and all monkeys to have access to outdoor enclosures while not allowing monkeys to have access to one another’s computer test stations. All rhesus macaques have continuous visual and vocal access to other rhesus monkeys.

Exemptions and Exceptions
Single housing of social species should be the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being (Guide, p. 64). Exemptions to this policy may be evaluated based on the experimental and/or clinical requirements of the particular animal.

- Scientific-related social housing exemptions must be outlined in the animal care and use protocol approved by the IACUC. Protocol related exemptions must be reviewed and approved on an annual basis by the IACUC, consistent with the annual continuing review of the protocol (AWR 3.81 (e)(2)).
- Veterinary-related concerns will be initiated by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and focus on temporary single housing due to the NHP’s health or condition, or in consideration of its well-being. Unless the basis for the exemption is a permanent condition, the exemption must be re-evaluated and documented by the AV at least every 30 days (AWR 3.81 (e)(1)). Examples of exemptions for veterinary reasons:
  - If a nonhuman primate exhibits vicious or overly aggressive behavior (AWR 3.81 (a)(1)) it will be singly-housed for the safety of personnel and other NHPs. Future grouping attempts with new partners may be made with aggressive animals, at the discretion of the AV.
  - If a nonhuman primate is debilitated as a result of age or other conditions (AWR 3.81 (a)(1)), then it may be singly-housed to preserve the welfare of that animal. “Debilitated” may include chronic health issues, excessive stress or distress, or other conditions as determined by the AV.
  - Nonhuman primates that have or are suspected of having a contagious disease must be isolated from healthy animals in the colony as directed by the AV (AWR 3.81 (a)(2)). When/if the concern for the contagion has passed, the AV will

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reconsider group-housing.

If individual animals cannot be co-housed successfully, singly-housed animals will have visual, auditory and olfactory contact with at least one social partner, unless exempt for research purposes (IACUC) or clinical care (AV). The Language Research Center environment also affords considerable positive human interaction provided by laboratory and animal care staff as part of the psychological and environmental enrichment (described in the Animal Enrichment Program policy). In addition, the research programs at the Language Research Center involve a myriad of non-invasive cognitive tasks in which a given animal can choose whether or not to participate; the tasks themselves are a robust form of environmental enrichment.

References