

IACUC Policy #:	560
Policy Title:	<i>Policy on Live Animals Used as Feed Sources</i>
Date Approved:	June 15, 2022
Date Reviewed:	

Purpose:

The “*Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*,” 8th Edition (The Guide) pp. 84 – 85, reads “Live food sources need to be maintained and managed to ensure a steady supply and the health and suitability of organisms as food.” The following policy describes requirements to ensure those items.

Definitions:

In this context, “prey species” are invertebrate species such as mealworms, crickets, *Hyalella*, and shrimp, which may be fed to vertebrate species as part of regular or experimental husbandry practices. Vertebrate prey species must be covered by an approved IACUC protocol.

Procedure:

Each protocol that utilizes a prey species must include a standard operating procedure for the prey species. The following requirements must be addressed in the SOP for those prey species *housed for more than 24 hours*:

The following criteria shall apply to terrestrial prey species. For organisms kept under other conditions, the standards shall be appropriate for the species.

1. The prey species must be provided with appropriate diet, available ad libitum.
2. The prey species must be provided with a hydration source, either free water or gel, ad libitum.
3. The prey species must have a secure enclosure to prevent escape and must be provided with enough room in the enclosure to prevent trampling and predation. There must be a schedule for regular cleaning and maintenance of the prey species enclosure.
4. Ventilation must be adequate for the size of the enclosure and number of prey individuals, and light/dark cycles should be considered for the species.
5. Temperature and humidity must be maintained as recommended for the prey species.

References

1. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th ed., National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-laboratory-animals.pdf>