Title: Identification of Animals

I. Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum requirements for identification of research and teaching animals.

II. Policy: Animals must be clearly identified while housed in primary and/or secondary enclosures, and when being transported from the vivarium to laboratory study areas.

III. Procedure: Animal’s primary enclosures must be labeled with at least the principal investigator’s name and the approved protocol number. If an animal is individually identified, the label should include the animal’ ID.

If it is not possible to label the primary enclosure, the secondary enclosure must be labeled or a system must be in place to assure accurate identification of the animals.

Animal units housing animals in group enclosures (e.g. livestock, avian) with individual identification may use an alternative method to labeling the primary or secondary enclosure as approved by the Attending Veterinarian.

Animal identification procedures must be documented in animal unit’s standard operating procedures.

Documentation must be easily accessible to identify which protocols animals are assigned to.

Rodent and rabbit cages must have cage cards labeled with the following information: source of the animal, the strain or stock, principal investigator, pertinent dates, protocol number, the sex and number of animals in the cage (Guide, pg. 75)
Animal cages or carriers used to transport animals from the vivarium to laboratory study areas must always be clearly marked with the principal investigator’s name and the approved protocol number.

Livestock, nonhuman primates, cats, dogs, ferrets and rabbits shall be individually identified by a method that is appropriate for the specific species, for example ear tags, collars, bands, ear notches, tattoos, freeze brands or micro-chips. Refer to species specific husbandry polices for appropriate methods.

Rodents can also be individually identified to ensure accurate records by ear notching, ear tags, micro-chipping, tattooing and toe clipping. Refer to Rodent Husbandry Care policy for specific species methods.

Refer to the IACUC Policy on Genotyping/Identification for guidance regarding appropriate methods of identification and genotyping

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In addition it is recommended that Principal Investigators indicate on the cage card any manipulations that may affect the animal’s health or final disposition. For example, the use of hazard sticker to identify rodents that have been treated with hazardous materials is highly recommended. The Biological Use Authorization or Animal Care and Use Protocol may stipulate additional labeling requirements.