Title: Husbandry Care for Dogs

I. Purpose:
The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for dogs.

II. Policy:
All units providing animal care for dogs must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy, and the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

III. Procedure:

Daily:
(365 days a year without exception)

Observe each animal and check for health concerns. Record sick and dead animals and report them to Campus Veterinary Services or designated clinical veterinarian per AV Veterinary Care policy.

Feed each animal twice daily. (feed must be appropriate for the animal’s age and condition, consult with the veterinarian for any questions regarding appropriateness of feed stuff). Provide sufficient potable water. At least twice daily for at least 1 hour each time if not provided ad libitum. Any changes or restrictions to normal food and water need to be approved in an animal care and use protocol. Expiration dates for food must be readily available per the standard of care for food storage. Food requiring refrigeration must be labeled with date opened and date of expiration. Food and water receptacles must be rinsed.

Remove excreta and food waste to prevent soiling of dogs. Spot clean whelping boxes and resting boxes. Clean run (include run walls and resting boards). Squeegee runs prior to putting dogs back in runs to avoid dogs from becoming wet.

Record Minimum and Maximum Temperatures
Clean and organize room. Record completion of room tasks, initial and date.

Weekly:
Provide a clean whelping box and resting box to pregnant and nursing animals and clean resting board if rest board is used.

**Biweekly (at least every 14 days):**

Clean and disinfect runs. Dogs must be removed from the run to avoid contact with the disinfectant and runs must be squeegeed to avoid the animal from becoming wet.

Clean and disinfect food and water receptacles, whelping boxes and resting boxes.

Clean and disinfect or change environmental enrichment. Disposable items should be discarded as soon as they are worn or soiled. Refer to Standard of Care for House Keeping for biomedical research and teaching animals for cleaning of room utensils.

**Quarterly (Every 3 Months):**

Clean and disinfect the secondary containment area where primary enclosures are located.

**Identification:**

Dogs (weaned pups and older) must be individually identified in addition to having an appropriately labeled cage card (refer to AV Identification of Animals policy). Dogs can be permanently identified with a collar and tag, ear tattoo or micro-chip. If dogs are micro-chipped, the reader must be readily available and functioning.

**Environmental Enrichment:**

Refer to the AV Environmental Enrichment policy. There must be an established exercise plan for dogs. The following two examples do not require additional opportunity for exercise:

1) Individually housed dogs with two times the minimum required floor space do not require additional exercise (see table below for recommended floor space).

2) Grouped housed dogs maintained in cages that provide each dog with 100% of the minimum required floor space per dog do not require additional requirements.

Dogs should be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate species typical movement. Some examples of enrichment for dogs include: Nylabones, Kong toys, resting boards, exercise pens, food treats, and social housing. Devices used for environmental enrichment must be easily cleaned and disinfected or disposable. Devices must be checked regularly for wear and discarded when excessively worn or when safety hazards are present.

**Social Housing:**

Single housing of social species should be considered the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being. Whenever possible cats should be socially housed and when they cannot the period of time should be kept to a minimum and those animals should be offered positive...
interaction with animal care staff and offered additional enrichment items (Guide pg. 64). 
Refer to Social Housing Policy:  http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/IACUC/po/social-housing-of-social-species

**Euthanasia:**

Facility managers and veterinary staff may euthanize sick or cull animals following approved methods in the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia

**Facilities:**

Indoor housing:
Temperature alarms must be installed in all rooms housing dogs. Room temperature range for dogs is 64-84 F. If the temperature falls outside this range for longer than a brief period facilities must be contacted.

There must be a minimum of 10-15 fresh room air exchanges for indoor housed animals.

Flooring should be solid, perforated, or slatted with a slip-resistant surface. In the case of perforated or slatted floors, the holes and slats should have smooth edges. Refer to Standard of Care for facilities maintenance.

**Shelter housing:**
Temperature must not fall below 45 F or rise above 85 F for more than 4 consecutive hours. Dry bedding, resting boards or other methods for conserving body heat must be provided when the temperatures are below 50 F. Ventilation must be provided by windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning. Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers, or air conditioning must be provided when the temperature is 85 F or higher.

**Outdoor housing:**
Non-acclimated animals must not be kept in outdoor facilities when the temperature is less than 50 F. Clean, Dry bedding must be provided when the temperature is below 50 F. Additional clean, dry bedding is required when the temperature is below 35 F. Shelter structures must be provided so each animal has enough space to lie, sit, stand, and to turn freely. In addition this type of the housing must provide protection from direct sun rays and from the effects of direct wind, rain, or snow.

**Caging**

Run/Caging must be in good condition and free of damage that may cause injury. Both the AWA and Guide requirements for floor space per dog must be followed

**Dog space requirements based on the Guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight of Animal</th>
<th>Floor Area/Animal (ft²)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;15 kilograms</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 30 kilograms</td>
<td>12.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 30 kilograms</td>
<td>≥24.0</td>
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