Title: Husbandry Care for Bearded Dragons

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

II. Policy:
All departments providing care for Bearded Dragons must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on 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)*
Check each holding tank and observe each animal for health problems. Check light timers – timers are set to provide UVB and heat bulbs on a 10 hour on/14 hour off cycle. Check cage thermometers for proper temperature range (78-102 °F)Feed bearded dragons. Spot clean cages – (feed dragons first, allowing them approximately 10 minutes to eat the insects.) Change bedding as needed. Ensure each cage has water in soaking bowl.

**Weekly:**
Sprinkle calcium over the greens fed to the bearded dragons. Clean and disinfect dragon holding tanks and soaking water bowl. Mist dragons well with warm water.

**Biweekly:**
Disinfect the walls and floor of the animal room with a 10% bleach solution (or similar)

**Monthly:**
Follow the UCD House Keeping Policy

**Feeding:**
When feeding insects to bearded dragons, specific criteria for gut-loading the insects are required (i.e. proper feed offered to insects prior to offering them to the bearded dragons, such as greens, chopped veggies, crushed non-sugar cereals, ground dry cat food) The insects should then be "dusted" in a calcium powder.

**Identification:** Each holding tank should be properly labeled with an individual cage card that includes animal identification, project Investigator name and approved protocol number.
Facilities:
Floors should be moisture-resistant, nonabsorbent, impact-resistant, and relatively smooth. Heating and Air in rooms should be controlled in a manner that supports species specific needs.

Caging:
Tanks or primary enclosure should be constructed of non-porous material that can be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Tanks or primary enclosure must provide a safe environment that is not constructed with material that may cause injury to the animal. Bearded Dragons should be housed so primary enclosure requirements meets the general needs of individual or group maintained animals. This should be based on species needs, behavior, and goals of the study.