

ACUC POLICY ON REQUIRED CAGE or TANK CARD INFORMATION

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) recognizes that any vertebrate research animal must be readily and easily associated with a particular animal protocol and principal investigator. In order to conform to the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” (National Research Council, 1996, hereafter referred to as the Guide) this information must be readily available at the animal’s primary enclosure in the form of a cage card. To conform to the Guide, page 46, the cage (primary enclosure) card must contain at a minimum the following information:

1. Principal Investigator Name
2. Protocol Number
3. Source of the animal
4. Strain or stock number of the animal
5. Date of birth or acquisition

Additional information that the ACUC requires that is not specified in the Guide is:

1. CCM Billing Code for animals in vivaria

Other useful information that may be on the cage card includes:

1. Sex
2. Age or weight
3. Number of animals
4. Individual animal identification

When ALL animals within a secondary enclosure (animal room or other enclosure) belong to one principal investigator and are under one protocol number and/or are billed under one CCM code, the principal investigator/protocol number/CCM code may be listed on the secondary enclosure (such as the room door). This does not preclude the need for listing the source, strain or stock number, and date of birth/acquisition on individual cage labels.

Research information can be appended to the cage card; however, this practice is discouraged. Cage cards periodically are soiled, wetted, or destroyed (by large animal species) and valuable research notes may be lost. Therefore, research information appended to cage cards should be considered at risk for loss.