

University of Notre Dame's IACUC Policy on Animal Feeding and Food Distribution

Purpose

The nutritional needs must be met for each animal species housed in the Freimann Life Science Center. The food must be stored properly in the animal rooms and in the storage area to maintain the nutritional quality and freshness. Many types of feed are used in FLSC, determined by the species of the animals, immunological status of the animals, and physiological status of the animals.

Type of Feeds:

1. Irradiated Rodent Diet - Harlan 2918. This irradiated diet is fed to experimental mice, rats, hamsters, and gerbils in FLSC and RCH study rooms unless another diet is specified. This is fed to mice in the RCH breeding room 028 that have this listed as their special diet.
2. Irradiated Rodent Diet - Harlan 2919. This irradiated diet is fed to all breeder mice and rats in FLSC and RCH breeding colonies, unless otherwise specified. In addition it is fed to all nude mice or mice housed in sterile environments.
3. Guinea Pig Chow-Purina 5025. This is fed to all guinea pigs.
4. Lab Rabbit Chow HF-Purina 5226. This is fed to all rabbits.
5. Purina Chicken Layena. This diet is fed to the laying hens.
6. Purina Chick Starter Grower. This diet is fed to the chicks, less than 12 weeks of age.
7. NASCO Frog Brittle in two different sizes is fed to *Xenopus laevis* and *Xenopus tropicalis*. In addition, xenopus are fed frozen blood worms once a week.
8. Tree frogs are fed meal worms or small crickets. The insects are dusted with a vitamin-mineral powder or fed a gut-loading diet before being used as food.
9. Feeder goldfish or zebrafish are fed to the bullfrogs.
10. Tetra fish flakes are fed to the feeder fish.
11. Treats: Several items are used on an unscheduled basis as a part of the environmental enrichment program (*see Environmental Enrichment SOP*).
12. Tetra flakes, brine shrimp, HatchFry Encapsulon Powdered diet #3 and Cyclopeze are fed to the adult zebra fish. HatchFry Encapsulon Powdered diet #0, #1, #2, brine shrimp, and rotifers from culture are fed to fry. (*See Zebra Fish SOP's*)

Specially formulated diets: Several animal groups are provided specially formulated diets. All animals that are on special diets have a "Special Diet" sticker on their card, specifying the type of diet. Examples are:

- a. 20% lactose diet
- b. 42% fat diet
- c. Investigator formulated powdered diet

Exceptions to the Diets: Some animals are given a specific diet based on genetic or disease conditions. Example is:

The "min" mice of the CTR are on Rodent Diet - Harlan 2918, rather than Rodent Diet - Harlan 2919.

Food Storage:

1. As food is received from the suppliers, check the mill date and check for torn or otherwise damaged bags. Reject any bags that are older than 10 weeks.
2. Food shipments are misted with a disinfectant, Accel TB, before entering the animal facility for storage or distribution to animal rooms.
3. Food is stored in the feed coolers in the basement of FLSC and RCH. The cooler is kept at 40 - 46°F (4 - 8°C).
4. Food is placed on dunnage racks, up off the floor.
5. Food must be rotated such that the freshest food is placed under the older food. Place the bags with the mill date end facing out, into the middle of the cooler, so that the dates can easily be read.

6. Do not store open bags of feed in the cooler. If a partial bag is needed, place the remaining portion in a plastic bag lined Rubbermaid container. Put a feed can label on the container, indicating the type of feed and the expiration date written as mm/dd/yy.
7. Appropriate amounts of feed, determined by the number of animals housed in the room are stored in the animal rooms. The food is put into a plastic bag lined Rubbermaid container.
8. The expiration date (6 months after the mill date) of the food, the type of food, and the date that the feed container was last sanitized is noted on a sticker that is placed on the lid of the container.
9. Special diets may need to be autoclaved and/or refrigerated. The special diets formulated for investigators are kept refrigerated, except that small amount on the cages.
10. Feed cans in the animal rooms are run through a cage washing cycle for disinfection at least once monthly and the date noted on the sticker on the lid of the can as mm/yy.

Animal Feeding Instructions:

1. The amount of food that is provided daily is determined by the species:
 - a. Rodents, guinea pigs, and chickens are fed *ad libitum*.
 - b. Rabbits are fed a measured amount, (175 grams or 250 ml) daily.
 - c. Bullfrogs are fed 1-2 feeder fish per frog three times a week. (*See Bullfrog SOP*)
2. The feed is supplied to each species according to their requirements:
 - a. Rodents have hanging feeders or feeders incorporated in the cage top to hold pelleted food.
 - b. Jar feeders are used for powdered diet.
 - c. Some feed may be provided on the cage floor in a glass petri dish or container as a means of encouraging foraging and caching behavior, and for those animals unable to access food in standard feeders, due to age or physical condition.
 - d. Injured or ill rodents are provided a gel diet to supplement to their regular diet, provided in a glass petri dish or container on the cage floor.
 - e. Rabbits have feeders attached to the outside of their cages for those housed in cages.
 - f. Rabbits and guinea pigs housed on the floor are given feed in sealed ceramic crocks.
 - g. Chickens and chicks have a hanging feeder outside of the cage.
 - h. Food for aquatic species is given directly into the water.