

IACUC FACILITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST *GUIDE* – Aquatic Animal Housing and Support Areas

A = acceptable

M = minor deficiency

S = significant deficiency (is or may be a threat to animal health or safety)

C = change in program (PHS Policy IV.A.1.a.-i.) (include in semiannual report to IO and in annual report to OLAW)

NA = not applicable

1. Vivarium Housing and Support Areas:	A	M	S	C	NA
Macroenvironment: Include findings such as chipped paint, uncleanliness, cracked floors or ceilings, and issues regarding: doors, windows, drainage, HVAC, power/lighting, noise or vibration control, environmental monitoring etc... that indicate that attention must be given to the facility					
a. Areas conform to acceptable construction guidelines (Guide pgs. 136 – 142)					
b. There is adequate & separate space for personnel (locker rooms, admin, training) (Guide pgs. 135-136)					
c. Security and access control is sufficient [facility is secured, animal room doors are locked, access is restricted to appropriate personnel] (Guide p. 151)					
d. Temperature, humidity, ventilation, and illumination are within acceptable parameters (Guide pgs. 43 - 44, 46-49, 80 - 81)					
Emergency Contact & Care					
e. MUST - Emergency, weekend and holiday care contact information (and veterinary care) is available (Guide pgs. 74 – 75, 114)					
f. Response plan in place to address major system failures (Guide p. 87)					
g. SOPs for routine husbandry & other procedures are documented and readily available (Guide p. 52)					
h. Care is provided by qualified personnel every day (Guide p. 74)					
Animal Housing					
i. Animals are separated by species and disease state (Guide p. 111)					
j. Animals appropriately identified (Guide pgs. 75 – 76, 87) [Cage/tank cards include parental stock/source, strain/stock, stock numbers, tank identification, life support information, important dates name and contact info for investigator, pertinent dates, and AUP number]					
k. Primary enclosures meet physiological, behavioral, and social needs, and are safe (Guide pgs. 51-52, 55-63, 82)					
l. Animals have access to food for a sufficient period of time while minimizing feeding aggression and nutrient loss (Guide p. 84)					
m. When used, environmental enrichment elicits species-appropriate behaviors and is evaluated for safety and utility (Guide p. 83)					
n. Semi-aquatic reptiles are provided terrestrial areas (Guide p. 83)					
o. Prevents electrical hazards (Guide p. 82)					
Water Quality					
p. Acceptable water quality standards are established (Guide p. 78) and water quality parameters and frequency of testing is recorded (Guide p. 88)					
q. MUST – chlorine, chloramines, chemical, and reactive bioproducts are removed or neutralized prior to use in aquatic systems (Guide ps. 78, 86)					
r. MUST – biofilter is of sufficient size to process bioload (Guide p. 80)					
Cleaning/Sanitization/Storage/Records					
s. Frequency of tank/cage cleaning and disinfection is determined by water quality, permits adequate viewing and health monitoring (Guide p. 86)					
t. Nets are cleaned, disinfected and managed to avoid contamination of systems (Guide p. 84)					
u. Food preparation and storage areas are clean and free of clutter (Guide p. 66)					
v. Food and substrate is appropriately labeled and stored, and vermin are controlled [Food that needs refrigeration is appropriately stored; all food is within expiration date or manufacturer recommendations] (Guide p. 66, 84)					
w. There is adequate space for equipment, supplies, food, substrate, and refuse (Guide p. 141)					
x. Carcass and animal tissue storage is separate from other cold storage, refrigerated below 7°C (45°F), and cleanable (Guide p. 142)					
y. Procedures for collection, storage and disposal of waste (including hazardous waste) in-place (Guide p. 73-74)					

z. MUST – hazardous wastes are rendered safe before removal from facility (<i>Guide</i> pp. 73-74)					
aa. Pest control is part of a documented program (<i>Guide</i> p. 74)					
bb. Records kept on feeding, nonexpired food supplies and live cultures (<i>Guide</i> p. 88)					

2. Euthanasia/Necropsy	A	M	S	C	NA
a. AVMA approved method(s) of euthanasia are used (<i>Guide</i> p. 123)					
b. Appropriate methods for confirming death are used; personnel are adequately trained and competency is verified (<i>Guide</i> pgs. 123 – 124)					

5. PI Aquatic Lab Surgery	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Animal preparation, surgery area and postoperative recovery are physically separated [may be on a separate area of the same bench] (<i>Guide</i> p. 144)					
b. The location of the surgical area minimizes traffic, noise, and other distractions (<i>Guide</i> p. 144)					
c. Autoclave monitoring procedures are implemented [autoclave tape or indicator] (<i>Guide</i> p. 119) and sterile pack are damage free [storage maintains sterility]					
d. Aseptic procedures are in use for survival surgery [sterile gloves, instruments] (<i>Guide</i> pgs. 118 – 119)					
e. Gloves are changed if contaminated and between animals (<i>Guide</i> p. 118 – 119)					
f. For survival surgery - Instruments are changed or sterilized appropriately [bead sterilization] if contaminated, and between animals, AND instruments are washed, sterilized, and stored after surgery (<i>Guide</i> pgs. 118 – 119, 145)					
g. Thermoregulatory and moisture support is present & appropriate (<i>Guide</i> pgs. 119–120)					
h. Anesthetic monitoring is acceptable [toe pinch, eye reflex, respiration, mucus membrane condition at least every 15 minutes] (<i>Guide</i> p. 119)					
i. Anesthesia/surgery, analgesia/post-operative care records are completed and available (<i>Guide</i> p. 119 – 120, 122)					