

Inspection Guide

AQUATICS FACILITY and HOUSING semi-annual ACUC inspections

This guide is intended to provide an outline of items commonly cited by Animal Care and Use Committees (ACUC) during semi-annual inspections of aquatic animal areas: it does not present a comprehensive list of requirements for animal use. Animal users are required to follow all relevant standards, including the Animal Welfare Act Regs, Public Health Service Policy, the Guide, and their ACUC-approved protocol.

Questions, concerns, and requests for assistance in preparing for an inspection are welcome. Please contact the RARC IACUC office at iacuc@rarc.wisc.edu

yes no n/a Aquatic Facility (general)

- Whistle-Blower Policy** is posted and current.
- Surfaces** are sanitizable, e.g. no peeling paint, chips, cracks, rust, cloth, unsealed wood
- Housekeeping** is appropriate, area is generally clean and well-organized.
- Cleaning Equipment** (mops, brooms) is stored off the floor.
- Eye wash stations** are tested (flushed) weekly and test log is posted.
- Human food** is kept out of animal use areas and lab refrigerators.
- Cardboard boxes**, including broken glass boxes, are stored off the floor.
- Electrical hazards** are eliminated or mitigated.

yes no n/a All Animal Housing

- Animals** generally appear healthy, sick animals are being promptly reported to vet staff.
- Veterinary contact** information current and posted.
- Emergency contact** sheets are current and posted.
- Husbandry records** reflect daily care (health, feeding) and are complete and accurate.
- Care staff** are aware of special husbandry needs/potential health effects of experiments.
- Food** is in-date, secondary containers clearly labeled with contents and expiration date*
- Medications and drugs** (MS-222) are pharmaceutical (USP)-grade and in-date.
- Enclosures** allow for viewing of animals and are not obscured by algal growth.
- Enclosures** are sanitized on a regular basis as specified in SOP (\leq 6 months).
- Equipment** used with animals (nets, buckets) is sanitized to reduce disease risk.

* dry flake food expires 3 years from receipt if unopened, 12 months once opened
frozen food expires 12 months from receipt if frozen, 1 month once defrosted & refrigerated.

The water-quality monitoring parameters below are general guidelines. Individual ACUCs, attending veterinarians, animal-care units, or laboratories may institute alternate monitoring requirements: refer to facility or lab SOPs for specifications.

yes no n/a Static Housing (water periodically replaced)

- Temperature** (water, room) is recorded DAILY and is within acceptable range for species.
- pH** is recorded WEEKLY and is within acceptable range for species and stable.
- Ammonia** is recorded WEEKLY and tested prior to water changes. **Normal <1 ppm**
- Nitrite** is recorded WEEKLY and tested prior to water changes. **Normal <5 ppm**
- Nitrate** is recorded WEEKLY and tested prior to water changes. **Normal <50 ppm**
- Chlorine** is recorded MONTHLY from source. **Normal is 0**
- Hardness** is recorded MONTHLY and is within acceptable range for species.
- Water changes** volume & frequency required for species & system based on the H2O quality results.

Yes no n/a Re-circulating Housing (water is continuously filtered)

- Temperature** (water, room) is recorded DAILY and is within acceptable range for species.
- pH** is recorded WEEKLY and is within acceptable range for and stable.
- Ammonia** is recorded WEEKLY. **Normal= Trace (at most)**
- Nitrite** is recorded WEEKLY. **Normal= Trace (at most)**
- Nitrate** is recorded MONTHLY. **Normal <50 ppm**
- Chlorine** is recorded MONTHLY from source. **Normal is 0**
- Hardness** is recorded MONTHLY and is within acceptable range for species.
- Dissolved oxygen (dO2)** is recorded MONTHLY. **Should be below 100%**
- Water changes** volume & frequency required for species & system based on the H2O quality results.
- Filters** changed based on system recommendations (or per SOP)

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Yes no n/a Flow-through Housing (water flows freely from source)

- Temperature** (water, room) is recorded DAILY and is within acceptable range for species.
- pH** is recorded WEEKLY and is within acceptable range for species and stable.
- Ammonia** is recorded WEEKLY. **Normal= Trace.** If high, overstocked tank or lack of water turnover
- Chlorine** is recorded MONTHLY at minimum. **Normal is 0**
- Nitrite** is recorded MONTHLY at minimum. **Normal is 0**
- Nitrate** is recorded MONTHLY at minimum. **Normal is 0**
- Hardness** is recorded every 6 MONTHS and is within acceptable range for species.
- Dissolved oxygen (dO2)** is recorded MONTHLY. **Should be below 100%.**

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