

# Colorado State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

## *Veterinary Care and Exercise Program for Dogs*

It is the responsibility of the Colorado State University (CSU) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure judicious and humane use of animals used in its teaching and research programs that is consistent with federal requirements and CSU's highest ethical standards.

The [US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)'s Animal Welfare Regulations \(AWRs\)](#) Part 3, Subpart A, §3.13 requires facilities to develop a written program of veterinary care for dogs, and §3.8 require that research facilities “develop, document, and follow an appropriate plan to provide dogs with the opportunity for exercise.” These plans must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and the IACUC, and it must be available for inspection by the USDA and any relevant federal funding agency. The [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (p.38) strongly recommends that dogs should be given opportunities for activity such as social contact with other dogs or humans, play, or exploration.

The CSU Veterinary Care Program for Dogs includes the following components:

- Physical examinations are performed upon arrival and at least once every 12 months by LAR veterinary staff, as delegated by the AV.
- If vaccinations were provided initially by the vendor, then they will be administered at the AVMA/AAHA\* recommended interval for each specific vaccine while at CSU.
  - If there is no vaccination history available, then dogs will be administered the initial vaccine and boosted at appropriate intervals as per AVMA/AAHA recommendations.
  - Vaccinations will include at least canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus, canine parvovirus, canine parainfluenza virus, and rabies virus.
  - Vaccinations may be withheld if scientifically justified in the IACUC protocol.
- If the physical exam reveals signs of possible ecto- or endo-parasites, then diagnostic testing will be performed in order to inform treatment by LAR veterinary staff.
  - All dogs will receive a Heartworm test within one month of arrival, but regular testing will not occur since the dogs are housed indoors and heartworm disease has a reported low prevalence in Colorado.
  - Fecal samples will be tested (pooled from each room/area) annually to screen for internal parasites.
- Dogs are provided continuous access to potable water in housing areas.
- Dogs health and welfare, including coat, nails, teeth, skin, eyes and ears, are assessed daily by Animal Care staff. Any abnormalities are reported to LAR veterinary staff for assessment.
- LAR On-Call Veterinarian is available at (970) 566-3414.
- Dogs are euthanized in accordance with the latest edition of the [AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals](#) and/or the approved IACUC protocol.

The CSU IACUC Plan to Provide Exercise for Dogs includes the following components:

- Dogs may be group housed in dog runs that provide at least 100% of the required space for each dog, if housed separately.
- Singly housed dogs are provided with at least twice their required floor space.
- Dogs are allowed to exercise in the corridor of the housing rooms while the cages are being cleaned.
- Volunteers socialize and train dogs. This activity includes being moved to a separate area for social contact, play, exploration, walked on a leash, or having access to a run (Rampart facility only).
- Dogs may be temporarily separated at feeding times or for individual enrichment items such as stuffed kongs into smaller kennels/spaces due to short term incompatibility issues caused by resource guarding to prevent aggression and/or food stealing from cage mates. Temporary housing allows for normal postural movements and water is available at all times and will not last longer than 120 minutes.
- Dogs may be temporarily placed in transport crates to be moved between facilities for protocol approved procedures. Water is not provided in these crates because it will spill and wet the animals during transport. Time in crates will be less than 30 minutes and dogs are offered water immediately upon being removed from crates.

The AV, their delegate, or other LAR veterinarian may exempt certain dogs from the exercise program because of their health, condition, or well-being. The veterinarian must document this exemption, and unless the basis for exemption is a permanent condition, must review the exemption every 30 days. The IACUC may also exempt certain dogs from the exercise program based on the Principal Investigator's request in a protocol submission or amendment that justifies why it is inappropriate for the dog(s) to exercise for scientific reasons. This exemption is reviewed annually by the IACUC.

Dogs that are exempt from exercise will receive positive, physical, human contact at least daily, and may receive other forms of enrichment, such as safe, sanitizable toys, or occasional food treats as appropriate, outlined in *CSU IACUC Guideline on Environmental Enrichment*.



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3/26/2024

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Date CSU Attending Veterinarian