

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

***Policy on Food and/or Fluid Regulation***

**Use of Food and/or Fluid Regulation for Experimental Reasons**

Ethical principles and federal regulations state that animals be fed a wholesome and nutritionally adequate diet for their species and individual animal characteristics (e.g. age, strain, housing type, etc.). However, CSU IACUC and the animal welfare regulations recognize that food and/or fluid regulation may be required for experimental reasons.

**Requirement for Scientific Justification**

Regulation of food and/or fluid must be scientifically justified in an animal care and use protocol and approved by the IACUC prior to initiation. During review the IACUC will consider the necessity, the level of regulation, adverse consequences of regulations, and methods to assess the health and well-being of the animals.

In general, if a study requires food and/or fluid regulation, but the animals' daily nutritional needs are met, the protocols should include a description of the feed and/or fluid regulation, but it is not considered a departure from the regulations

**Requirement for Monitoring Animals**

Any animal under *food regulation* must be observed as frequently as necessary (once daily at a minimum) by personnel trained to evaluate the animal's health and wellbeing. The weights of most animals approved for food regulation must be measured and recorded at no less than weekly intervals, and smaller animals such as mice, or young animals that are growing may require more frequent weighing. Written records should be maintained for each animal to document daily food consumption and any behavioral and clinical changes used as criteria for temporary or permanent removal from the study. The records must be available for inspection by the IACUC, Attending Veterinarian or delegate, and any regulatory or accrediting agencies.

Any animal under *fluid regulation* must be observed as frequently as necessary (once daily at a minimum) by personnel trained to evaluate the animal's health and wellbeing, including hydration status. The weights of most animals approved for fluid regulation must be measured and recorded once daily at a minimum, or a record of daily water intake must be maintained to ensure adequate hydration. Written records should be maintained for each animal to document daily fluid consumption, hydration status, and any behavioral and clinical changes used as criteria for temporary or permanent removal from the study. The records must be available for inspection by the IACUC, Attending Veterinarian or delegate, and any regulatory or accrediting agencies.

**Weight Loss Limitation**

If an animal under food and/or fluid regulation loses more than 20% of its body weight (compared to its pre-study weight), its food and/or fluid intake should be increased immediately as appropriate until the animal regains its normal weight (+/-20%). The weight of any animal that has lost 20% of its body weight should be measured daily to ensure that further body weight is not lost.

**Coordination with Animal Care Staff**

The appropriate animal caretakers should be notified of any food and/or fluid regulation.

**\*Pertinent Regulations:**

- [Animal Welfare Act Regulations](#) (AWAR) §2.38(f)(2)(ii)
- [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (2011), p. 30-31
- [Public Health Service \(PHS\) Policy](#) (II; IV(A)(1))

**Institutional Endorsement**

The “Policy on Food and/or Fluid Regulation” approved by the IACUC on November 15, 2022 for recommendation to the Institutional Official supports the research, teaching and service mission of Colorado State University, and ensures the welfare of animal subjects used therein will be protected. Therefore, as the Institutional Official, I declare the IACUC-recommended policy to be the institutional policy of the Colorado State University Program of Animal Care and Use.

	11/15/2022
Institutional Official	Date