University of Maryland
Accounting for Animal Numbers in Animal Study Protocols and Censuses

These guidelines are to assist investigators in determining the number of animals they need and how to report those needs to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

More detailed explanations are available at [www.umresearch.umd.edu/IACUC/policies.htm](http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IACUC/policies.htm)

The following information is designed to be an outline and all investigators are encouraged to consult with the IACUC Manager or the University Veterinarian if they have questions not addressed by this document.

**USDA Regulated Species (Such as rabbit, bat, ferret, guinea pig, or hamster)**
- When to include in census
  - USDA-regulated species are counted at birth.

**RODENTS** (Mice of the genus *Mus* and rats of the genus *Rattus*)
- When to include in census
  - Count all rodents at birth (this may be delayed until the first cage change after birth to reduce maternal cannibalism).

**BIRDS** (all species)
- When to include in census
  - Count all birds at hatch, and;
  - Count manipulated embryonated eggs that will survive to 85% time until hatch (approximately day 19 in chicken species).

**FISH/AMPHIBIANS**
- When to include in census
  - An estimate of numbers is acceptable in protocols involving fish and amphibians although exact numbers are preferred if possible. Begin estimation when the species reaches its larval stage. Please provide the approximate date or age for the appearance of larval characteristics and your method of estimation when you submit your Animal Study Protocol.
  - Definition of larval stage - Larvae are dependent on external feeding once their endogenous nutrient supply (found in the yolksac) is depleted.

**REPTILES**
- When to include in census
  - Count all reptiles at hatch, and;

**OTHER SPECIES**
- Please contact the IACUC Manager if you have questions about a species that is not covered by this document.

*Definition of ‘Use’ – Any animal bred or housed for the intended purpose of research, testing, teaching or exhibition.

All PIs using prenatal or neonatal mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles are expected to treat these animals in a humane manner. Failure to do so may result in an animal welfare investigation.

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