

	UCSD INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE POLICY MANUAL	POLICY 37.01  Issued: 02.20.13
	<b>Deviation from standard feeding          or watering</b>	

**I. Background**

Regulation of food or fluid intake may be required for the conduct of some physiological, neuroscience, and behavioral research protocols. The regulation may entail scheduled access to food or fluid sources, so an animal consumes as much as desired at regular intervals, or control over the total volume of food or fluid consumed. The objective when these studies are being planned and executed should be to use the least restriction necessary to achieve the scientific objective while maintaining animal well-being. The Animal Use Protocol requires a complete description of these dietary deviations.

Addition of dietary supplements or special diets may also be required for the conduct of some research protocols. The Animal Use Protocol requires a complete description of these dietary deviations.

**II. Who Should Read This Policy**

Principal Investigators who require deviations from ACP-defined standard operating procedures for feeding and watering of animals

Personnel on animal studies with deviations from ACP-defined standard operating procedures for feeding and watering of animals

Animal care personnel in all animal activity areas

**III. Definitions**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Food restriction	(In species that are fed ad libitum): the provision of food for fewer than 24 hours per day, or the provision of a lesser amount or caloric content than would be provided.  (In species that are fed on a schedule other than ad libitum): any deviation from the ACP SOP for feeding and watering of that particular species.
Non-standard diet	Any diet that deviates from ACP SOP for feeding of a particular species
Water restriction	Any deviation from ad libitum access to unadulterated drinking water.

#### **IV. Policy**

This policy covers animals while in animal housing areas. Refer to the *UCSD IACUC Policy 33.01 Transportation of Rodents* for the food and water requirements for rodent cages brought to labs or procedure rooms.

This policy does not apply to one-time food restriction prior to anesthesia, which is covered in *UCSD IACUC Policy 34.02 Anesthesia*.

##### **1. Special diets, dietary supplements or treated water**

- a. Non-standard diets and treated water must be described and scientifically justified in an approved Animal Use Protocol.
- b. Feed or additives must not be expired and must be kept in labeled, clean, vermin-proof containers.
- c. Affected cages must be labeled or otherwise clearly identified with a description of the special diet, feed additive, or treated water. For diets/treatments administered by laboratory personnel instead of vivarium staff, identification must include phone and email contact information of responsible laboratory personnel. *Any animal cages without this information will be fed and watered by ACP husbandry staff per the species-specific ACP SOP.*
- d. Addition of dietary supplements for the purpose of enrichment is covered in *UCSD IACUC Policy 12.01 Housing and Environmental Enrichment*.

##### **2. Food and/or water restriction**

- a. Food and/or water restriction requires scientific justification in an approved Animal Use Protocol.
- b. The Animal Use Protocol must describe how food and/or water-restricted animals are monitored with sufficient frequency to ensure that food and fluid intake meets nutritional needs.
- c. Affected cages must be labeled or otherwise clearly identified with a description of the food/water restriction. For food/water restriction that is administered by laboratory personnel instead of vivarium staff, identification must include phone and email contact information of responsible laboratory personnel. *Any animal cages without this information will be fed and watered by ACP husbandry staff per the species-specific ACP SOP.*
- d. During intervals of food and/or water restriction, affected cages must be identified with cage-side records. Records must include each of the following:
  - i. the approved restriction schedule
  - ii. the time/date and amount, if applicable, of latest feeding/watering
  - iii. documentation that approved monitoring was conducted

- iv. contact information for responsible personnel (including phone contact)

**V. Related Documents and References**

<b>UCSD Documents</b>
<a href="#">UCSD IACUC Policy 33 Transportation of Rodents</a>
<a href="#">UCSD IACUC Policy 12 Housing and Environmental Enrichment</a>
<a href="#">UCSD IACUC Policy 34 Anesthesia</a>
<b>Other Documents and References</b>
<a href="#">The Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals</a>

**VI. Helpful hints**

A recommended form for recordkeeping can be found at:

<http://iacuc.ucsd.edu/policies/FoodandWaterRestrictionLog.pdf>