

Widener University - Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Animal Care Standard Operating Procedures

1. Name and Department of Applicant (faculty member):

Students: Julie Greenwood, Carmela Italiano, Trish Bradley

2. Name and Approval Number of IACUC Animal Care Form

3. Identify the species of animals covered by this SOP.

Red Ear Sliders

Ribbon Snakes

Western Fence Lizards

4. If the animals are to be used in a course project, please indicate:

<u>Course Name and Number</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Estimated Enrollment</u>
Biology 401, fall 2003	Itzick Vatnick and Bruce Grant	16

5. How are animals obtained?

The lizards were borrowed from the biology department at Widener University. The snakes were purchased at World Wide Pets and the turtles were purchased at Mele's Pet Store

6. Briefly describe the usage of the animals.

The steps taken for each species is very similar. The animals will be caged and fed as instructed to do so. The lizards and snakes will be fed every 3 days and the turtles will be fed everyday. The day after feeding, the animals will be removed from their cages, weighed, placed in metabolic chambers for approximately four hours and then returned immediately to their cage. Also five days after their feedings they will be removed once again and placed in the chamber once again for four more hours. Once this cycle is complete, they will be fed immediately afterwards.

7. **Animal Care Standard Operating Procedures**

Location and Environmental Conditions of Animal Enclosures

The animals will be kept in Kirkbride 503 laboratory at room temperature.

Describe Enclosures (cages, pens, crates, tanks)

They will be kept in glass aquariums covered with mesh wire screen and overhead lights for heat sources.

Describe Feeding and Water Regime. (How much? How often?)

The lizards and snakes will be fed every 3 days and the turtles will be fed everyday. The lizards are fed 3 crickets per lizard; the snakes are fed 3 rosies per snake; the turtles are fed two cubes of blood worms everyday. The turtles are housed in water. There is a water dish readily available for the snakes to drink from. The lizards are sprayed each day with water.

Describe sanitation practices. (Any daily or periodic procedures such as water changes, bedding changes, cage washing)

Water is changed in the snake's aquarium as it gets low (approximately once a week). The water that the turtles live in will be changed every 3 weeks and calcium is added for stronger turtle shells. There is no bedding to change for any of the animals.

How many animals are placed in each enclosure? What size are the animals?

There are four lizards in one aquarium, there are four turtles in another aquarium, and there are 3 snakes in a third aquarium. The lizards are approximately 5 to 6 inches in length. The snakes are approximately 12 to 18 inches in length. Lastly, the turtles are approximately 1 to 2 inches in circumference.

8. What are the clinical signs or circumstances that would indicate animal stress or disease?
Key signs of stressed animals are highly lethargic or highly aggressive animals.

9. What are the procedures for handling and/or euthanizing sick animals?
We do not plan on euthanizing any of our animals. All animals are handled with care by hand. Immediately following handling we make sure to wash our hands. When weighing, the animals are carried in plastic cups.

10. What is the fate of animals that survive the experimental or instructional use?
The surviving animals will be given away to students as pets. The students will have adequate instructions on care, cleaning, and feeding before they are released into their custody.

11. If known, list personnel who will care for these animals.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Julie Greenwood	Student	610-490-7508
Trish Bradley	Student	610-490-7004
Carmela Italiano	Student	610-490-7543

12. I hereby certify that I am responsible for the care of the animals described in this SOP. I will properly train all personnel in animal care. The care of animals will abide by the National Research Council guidelines published in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Julie Greenwood	student
Trish Bradley	student
Carmela Italiano	student

NOTE:

Once approved, this form will be kept on file with the Associate Dean of Science. An approved Animal Care SOP is required before animals are obtained.