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**Valdosta State University Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee**

**Standard Operating Procedure Number 013**

**PROCUREMENT, RECEIPT, QUARANTINE, AND ACCLIMATION OF  
LABORATORY ANIMALS**

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**PURPOSE:** This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) specifies procedures to be employed by Valdosta State University (VSU) animal users to procure and receive live vertebrate animals from vendors for research and instructional purposes. Departure from these procedures requires explanation in the Animal Use Protocol (AUP) and approval of the IACUC.

**PROCUREMENT AND RECEIPT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS**

Live vertebrate animals intended for use in research or instruction should be acquired from approved vendors whenever possible. Approved national vendors include: Charles River, Carolina Biological Supply, Jackson Laboratories, Marine Biological Lab, Wards Scientific and Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory. The business and/or individual in the U.S. Department of

Agriculture, the annual inspection reports will be examined to determine if the business is in compliance. Normal university procurement procedures should be followed in purchasing the animals. The animal user is responsible for arranging delivery of the animals at a time and place that does not put the health and well-being of animals in jeopardy (i.e., avoidance of extended holding time, temperature extremes, insufficient food or water, etc).

The specific day of the week the animals will arrive is dependent upon the species requested and the supplier providing the animals. In any case, the animals should be permitted to acclimate to the new environment and recover from the stresses of shipping prior to the initiation of any research or instructional activities. There is good scientific evidence to suggest that a minimum acclimation period of seventy-two (72) hours is required for rodents to return to pre-shipment status (Landi, M., Krieder, J.W., Lang, C.M., and Bullock, L.P. [1982], Effect of shipping on the immune functions of mice. *Am.J.Vet.Res.* 43:1654-1657 and Dymysza, H.A., S.A. Miller, J.F. Maloney, *et.al.* [1963]), Equilibration of the laboratory rat following exposure to shipping stresses. *Lab. Anim. Care* 13:60-65).

Vendors supplying animals to VSU are expected to provide animals free of internal and external parasites. If no health monitoring report is available for the animals received or if the report indicates some condition may exist, the animals should be isolated and, as appropriate, tested and monitored prior to release from quarantine.

Upon receipt of the shipment, the animal user should ensure that animals of the correct age, sex,

