1. Purpose

This Guideline describes the procedures for photography/filming of animals in a procedure, housing or laboratory setting. This guideline concerns photography/filming by any method and in the following statements “photography” includes photography and filming. Although it is not necessary to include photography as a procedure in the Animal Use Protocol only animals and procedures outlined in the Animal Use Protocol are to be photographed.

This Guideline is also to ensure that ethical standards are maintained and the risk of unwanted exposure for the people and other animals in the procedure or housing room is lowered to an acceptable level.

This Guideline is for research and teaching purposes such as journal publications, data analysis and conference presentations and as part of the documentation of research findings.

Disclaimer: These Guidelines do not describe Guidelines for photographs for public relations purposes or activities with the general public. For photography intended for publication of a non-scientific purpose, the individual must seek written approval from their institutional media relations office.

2. Responsibility

2.1. Principal investigator:

2.1.1. Ensure that research staff is aware of and follow the guidelines for photography as outlined below.

2.1.2. The photographs must be stored in a manner that is secure from random access.

3. General concerns:

3.1. Unless unavoidable because of the objectives of the experiment, all animals should be photographed in procedure rooms or laboratory settings. If photography must take place in an animal housing room, the investigator must ensure that this activity will not affect other research projects in the room and requires approval from the management of the animal facility.

3.2. Unless necessary for completion of the objectives of the experiment, photography outside the housing cage is preferred.

3.3. If photography in a housing cage is necessary, then the animal should be placed in a clean cage. Removal of the cage lid prior to photography is preferred.

3.4. No cage cards or other identifiers of the relevant institute are to be included in the photograph. Staff should not be identifiable.

3.5. If a surgical procedure is part of the photograph, then correct aseptic technique, as outlined in the Animal Use Protocol or Standard Operating Procedure, must be adhered to and be evident in the photograph. For any procedure, best practices should be demonstrated and consultation with a veterinarian is recommended.
3.6. For videos that will be posted on-line, a pre-review by the FACC is needed to ensure that all SOPs and best practices are followed.

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