PURPOSE: To provide the highest quality of care to various species of reptiles in order to prevent the development of disease or disorders that could compromise research studies.

ANIMAL CARE

A. The Principle Investigators, Graduate Students and/or Animal Laboratory Technician daily observe animals.

B. All animals are observed for any evidence of illness or change in behavior and the “Daily Observation Record” is completed.

C. Record the minimum and maximum temperature on the room temperature chart. Check the room for operational deficiencies. Report any problems to the ACS Facility Manager.

D. Food and water replaced as necessary. Animals may be fed rodents, fruits or vegetables, insects or commercial food dependant on species.

E. Change water in tanks as necessary to avoid fowling.

F. Some water tanks may have a filter. The filter is cleaned periodically to maintain clean water flow.

OCCUPIED ANIMAL ROOMS SANITATION

A. Floors are swept and mopped with disinfectant mixed according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

B. Floors, walls and ceiling are sponge mopped with disinfectant once a month.

C. Separate mops are provided in each room.

D. Cages are to be constructed of a material impervious to moisture.

E. Cages are sanitized once a month either by hand or in a mechanical cage washer.
F. Feces, skins and uneaten food are to be removed as soon as possible.

G. Substrates replaced every 3-4 months or sooner.

HEALTH CARE

Everyone with access to the animal facility is responsible for informing the University Veterinarian when an animal becomes ill or a change in behavior is noted. Seriously ill animals should be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to the veterinarian. When an investigator, technician, or animal care personnel requires veterinary assistance, they should:

A. Complete the “Animal Observation Report” in the Notebook. Indicate the date, room number, animal number/cage ID, and problem observed, and ensure that the name (or initials) of the person making the report is recorded.

B. Contact the University Veterinarian or the ACS Facility Manager at:

   Dr. Tiffanie Brooks, University Veterinarian, Animal Care Services.
   806-834-8588 Office
   806-239-2120 Cell Phone

   Carla Grisham, Manager, Animal Care Services.
   806-834-3437 Office
   254-913-5156 Cell Phone

C. Provide all the above information to the individual contacted above, who will give advice and authorization for the action(s) that should be taken.