Title: Texas Tech University Animal Housing  
Policy Number: 037  
Policy Intent: The intent of this policy is to describe the expectations of how TTU and TTU-SVM animals are to be housed in and on approved facilities

Table of Contents
1 Purpose  
2 Background  
3 Policy  
4 Exceptions  
5 References  

1. Purpose  
A. Animal housing is a key component of the animal program at Texas Tech University. This policy will lay out expectations of the TTU IACUC for the housing of teaching, research and demonstration animals in the university’s animal program.  
  1) The University’s animals included in the animal program will include ALL teaching and research animals that are owned or leased by Texas Tech and are housed on/in Texas Tech facilities or on/in non-Texas Tech owned facilities

2. Background  
A. Appropriate housing promotes species-typical behaviors, enhances the overall well-being of animals, and supports quality in research and education. Animals require an environment that permits them to grow, mature, and maintain good health and species-specific behaviors while minimizing experimental variation.

3. Policy  
A. An appropriate housing space or enclosure should account for the animals' physical, mental and social needs. Social housing promotes basic behavioral needs and contributes to the psychological wellness of many animals. Therefore, social animals will be housed in stable pairs or groups of compatible individuals unless they must be housed alone for experimental reasons or because of social incompatibility. Any species or specific groups within a species that would live as groups in a natural or free-range habitat should be considered social animals. Structural adjustments may be required for social housing (e.g., perches, visual barriers, refuges/hides), and important resources (e.g., food, water, and shelter) should be provided in such a way that they cannot be monopolized by dominant animals.

B. Farm animals need shelter to escape the elements. It is perceived that winter is the most important time to provide shelter, but an animal's natural coat can allow them to tolerate much colder temperatures. Summer heat can be harder, however, if shade is not provided and available to them, either by trees or structures that provide adequate space for animals if they are out on pasture. Similarly, lack of ventilation in a barn or building can also be detrimental to animal health. Some livestock animals do not sweat, which increases the risk of heat stroke.
and decreases overall production.

1) For pasture housed animals, a simple three-sided shelter with an open front will meet the needs on pasture and is often the building of choice to raise healthy livestock. When designing a three-sided animal shelter, make sure the open side faces south, away from prevailing winds. Locate the structure on an elevated, well-drained site and keep winter access in mind for feeding and water handling.

2) For pen/dry lot housed animals a variation of options are available from the three-sided shelter to overhead shade structures of varying materials.

3) All shade and shelter structures will be maintained in such a fashion that there is no risk of harm or injury to the animals housed in their respective systems.

4. Exceptions

A. Social Housing Exceptions That Require IACUC Approval

1) Experimental Requirements: Social housing may confound scientific goals in some types of research. If an investigator believes that social housing may affect their research objectives, the investigator must request an exception in an IACUC protocol. In the protocol, the PI must include a scientific justification and a specific description of the housing arrangement. When single housing of animals is deemed necessary it should be limited to a minimum period of time. IACUC approval is required before exceptions to social housing can be implemented.

2) Strain or Group-Specific Aggression: If social incompatibility is a trait of a specific strain or specific groups within a strain or species, the need for single housing must be described and justified in the IACUC protocol.

B. Individual Housing Situations That Do Not Require IACUC Approval

1) Veterinary Concerns: Temporary exceptions may be approved by the Attending Veterinarian or veterinary staff for social aggression, animal health or other medical reasons. Veterinary staff recommendations for single housing may be made when an animal exhibits vicious or overly aggressive behavior after failed group housing attempts with cohorts that would typically be compatible. These exemptions are handled on a case-by-case basis by veterinary staff.

2) Standard Animal Management and Husbandry Practices: These standard practices do not constitute an exception to this policy. Examples include, but are not limited to:
   - Standard agricultural husbandry practices, such as the use of farrowing or gestation crates in sows, and individual housing of intact males (i.e. rams, bulls and boars).
   - Temporary single housing of animals post-operatively, up to 72 hours.
   - Rodents in ACS facilities that are housed individually should have cage cards identifying the reason for single housing.
     - Attrition- : Lack of suitable mate, death of cagemate, new animals shipped separately
     - Protocol: Specific scientifically justified reasons defined in IACUC approved protocol
5. References

- Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching, ASAS/ADSA/PSA, Fourth Ed. 202
- https://www.aaalac.org/accreditation/positionstatements.cfm#social