IACUC Food Regulation in Non-human Primates Policy
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

POLICY STATEMENT
It is the expectation of the IACUC and the veterinary staff that primate research will be guided by sources of record, including the 8th edition of the Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and guidelines provided by the Association of Primate Veterinarians (APV). The IACUC recognizes that, in cases of scientific necessity, some protocols may require operation outside those guidelines with a scientifically justified and IACUC-approved exemption. This policy sets forth basic tenets of that exemption.

REASON FOR POLICY
The GRU IACUC is responsible for overseeing humane care and use of animals used in research and teaching and for ensuring adherence to regulatory expectations in the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the Animal Welfare Act as well as standards contained in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The purpose of this policy is to educate personnel in proper technique to ensure humane treatment of non-human primates in studies utilizing food restriction.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDER AND ORGANIZATION(S)
Any employee, student, contractor, or external consultant involved with non-human primate use at GRU.

DEFINITIONS
- Applicable Species
  - Non-human Primates
- ad libitum - in accordance with desire
- body condition score - an assessment of the animal’s weight for age and weight for height ratios, and its relative proportions of muscle and fat

PROCESS & PROCEDURES
1. The Food Restriction Guidelines advanced by the AVP are the expected starting point for all protocols involving changes in food access in non-human primates (NHPs). While energy requirements vary between individuals, no less than 85% of the National Research Council determined full ration will be permitted in the absence of empirical data assessed by the veterinarians. Deviation from this will require an IACUC-approved exemption included in the attendant animal use protocol (AUP). PIs are encouraged to operate within these guidelines until all alternatives are exhausted.
2. The maximum food restriction acceptable to the IACUC will be no less than 75% of the NRC-determined ration, applied daily. Energy requirement may be adjusted based on clinical conditions including (but not limited to): Body Condition Score (BCS), clinical parameters and blood work, behavioral assessment, and reference data of 70-100 Kcal/kg day. Deviation from this may be allowed with a high level of scientific justification and pre-approval from the IACUC on an animal by animal basis. No standing permission for regular food restriction below 75% will be permitted.
3. The minimum body condition score will be 2.0. Maintenance of animals at BCS less than 2.5 will require increased frequency of veterinary monitoring to include weekly body weight and food intake, monthly physical exam and assessment of activity and stereotypical behavior. Protocols require this degree of leanness must be class E. Animals falling clearly below a BCS of less than 2.0 will not be allowed to return to the study.
4. The maximum body weight loss will be 15% below a baseline established after a minimum of four weeks of ad libitum feeding. Initial baseline will be established after full quarantine and acclimatization periods (i.e. four weeks in addition to these times). Animals must have a body condition score of 2.5 to enter study.
5. Baselines will be re-assessed during a 4 week break period following a period of food-restriction. Animals will be fed ad libitum during the break period and work periods will be no longer than 6 months in duration.
6. Food restriction studies in juvenile and/or sub-adult (<7 years of age) NHPs will require additional criteria for establishing baseline. During the four weeks baseline period, animals must:
   - have a body condition score of at least 2.5,
   - have normal clinical data and
   - grow at least 50% of the rate of expected growth for the given species.
7. No animals on food restricted protocols can be exempted from environmental enrichment.
FORMS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Association of Primate Veterinarians NHP Food Restriction Guidelines [http://www.primatevets.org/education]
- Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm]

Approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee on 21 August 2014.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE

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David W. Stepp, Ph.D.                                             Date
Chairman Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Georgia Regents University

TO BE USED BY THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT

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