OBJECTIVE: Drexel University Animal Care and Use Committee and Attending Veterinarian have established this policy to provide opportunities for exercise and socialization of dogs.

RESPONSIBILITY: The ULAR will provide exercise opportunities and record-keeping.

PROCEDURES:

1. Dogs housed at Drexel University are provided opportunity for exercise, unless there is a justifiable reason to restrict activity, by housing the animals in pens. These pens will provide at least two times the required space for individually housed dogs or at least 100% of the required space for each dog if housed in groups. This policy applies to all dogs over 12 weeks of age. (For calculation of space requirements, see Animal Welfare regulations, Part 3, Subpart A, Section 3.6(c)).

2. In addition to the housing allowances which allow for exercise, dogs will be provided an additional opportunity to exercise by opening the run doors and allowing the dogs to run in the area outside of the pens, either individually or in compatible groups. This will be done at least 3 times weekly, with no more than 2 consecutive days between exercise periods. Dogs will have a minimum of 15 minutes of exercise per session. Animal caretaker staff will interact with the dogs during this period to encourage exercise.

3. If a dog is maintained at the facility without sensory contact with another dog, it must be provided with positive physical contact with humans at least daily. This will consist of a minimum of petting, brushing, sitting with, and/or playing with the dog for at least 15 minutes daily.

4. Immediately after exercise and human interaction, the individual providing this care will record the time, type and length of time in the medical record of the dog.

EXEMPTIONS FROM EXERCISE:
1. If dogs cannot be exercised for experimental reasons, the investigator must provide scientific justification for the exemption in the IACUC protocol and this exemption must be approved by the Committee.

2. If a dog cannot be exercised for medical reasons, the attending veterinarian must document and review the exemption every 30 days in the medical record of the dog. If the condition is permanent, the attending veterinarian must identify the condition and need for permanent exemption in the medical record of the dog.

Approval date: 2003

IACUC review date: 1/2012