TITLE: Cage Labeling Requirements

Policy Number: 2014-020

Responsible Department: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

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Purpose of Policy: The purpose of this policy is to provide the principal investigator, the veterinary and animal care staff and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) the information necessary for the proper identification, veterinary care and husbandry of animals housed at any facility owned or operated by WesternU.

Policy Information: In keeping with the National Research Council’s current edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, all identification cards must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- Name of the principal investigator (PI),
- Emergency telephone number(s) of the PI or other responsible parties,
- IACUC approved protocol number and expiration date,
- Animal species,
- Animal strain or stock, if known,
- Genotype, if applicable,
- Source (supplier) of the animals,
- Arrival date,
- Date of birth,
- Any biohazardous, toxic or radioactive substances the animals have been exposed to.

Each housing unit (e.g. cage or tank) must have its own card unless all units in a rack or room are covered by the same approved protocol and each card would contain the same information. In such cases, a single card may be used to cover all units in a rack or room provided that it is placed in a highly visible location.

Any unidentifiable animal will be transferred to the IACUC’s holding protocol and will be subject to euthanasia at the discretion of the Attending Veterinarian.