



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guidelines and Policies

MUSIC IN THE ANIMAL FACILITY

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states, “Because changes in patterns of sound exposure have different effects on different animals, personnel should try to minimize the production of unnecessary noise.” Furthermore, many species can hear frequencies that are inaudible to humans, so the potential effects of equipment and materials that produce noise in the hearing range of nearby animals should be carefully considered.

The nonauditory effects of noise are of significant concern in many species of research animals and may greatly affect biological response. Radios, tape/CD players, timers using alarms, and other sound generators may not be used in animal rooms, or animal corridors unless they are part of an approved protocol or an animal enrichment program. This includes the use of personal listening devices with headphones (and/or earbuds), as those sounds may be audible to nearby animals. The use of music in an animal laboratory where animals are acutely used is up to the discretion of the PI who should determine if the noise generated would or would not have an effect upon the research animals or study results.

The IACUC may approve the use of music in selected areas provided sound levels do not interfere with “life safety” warnings (e.g. fire alarm, tornado warning). Areas of the animal research complex where music may be considered appropriate include cage wash areas, necropsy suites, and surgery suites.