Introduction
The University of Colorado Denver believes that the purpose of animal research is to contribute to the enhancement of human and animal health. Animal use is a privilege that requires close adherence to a clear and defined code of ethics to ensure all animals are treated as humanely and judiciously as possible.

Policy Statement
This policy is intended to outline appropriate timelines for the stabilization of routine source laboratory animals. The length of time for stabilization will depend on the species involved and the intended use of the animals. The goal is to ensure animals are free of clinical illness and have acclimated to their environment for physiologic, psychological and nutritional stabilization prior to exposure to research procedures.

Stabilization
- USDA-Covered Species [Mammalian Species Excluding Laboratory Mice and Rats]:
  - Species covered by the USDA from any source must be acclimated for 3 to 5 days prior to the date of use.
    - Terminal procedures require a minimum of 3 full days (72 hours) acclimation time from the time of arrival to the time of anesthesia induction.
    - Survival procedures require a minimum of 5 full days (120 hours) from time of arrival to time of surgical anesthesia induction or initiation of non-terminal, experimental procedures.
- Laboratory Mice and Rats:
  - It is highly suggested to investigators that all species are given a minimum 5 to 7 day acclimation period to their new environment after arrival. UCDenver policy continues to allow for acute tissue harvest (non-surgical terminal procedures) of mice and rats prior to the 5 to 7 day recommended acclimation period.