

HMSC Animal Care Guidelines

HMSC is committed to the health and well-being of animals used in research, education and outreach activities on campus. The following Guidelines incorporate best practice methods for animal care. Any Activities involving animals covered by the HMSC Animal Care Plan conducted by personnel working within any of OSU-HMSC facilities must follow these Guidelines whenever possible. If it is not possible to achieve the Activities goals following the Guidelines, OSU-HMSC personnel must follow best practices to achieve the activities goal with animal welfare in mind.

*See *HMSC Animal Care Plan* for plan definitions.

*See *HMSC Aquatic Animal Husbandry* for additional details and species specific resources.

Animal Collection

- Collect and transfer all animals following collection permit requirements

Holding Requirements

- Contact the Animal Care Committee to coordinate monitoring activities
- Review *HMSC Open Flow-Through Saltwater System Use Requirements*
- Display lab tag
- Hold in flow-through seawater with adequate flow rate to maintain appropriate temperature and dissolved oxygen levels
- Supply appropriate habitat
- Evaluate stocking density
- Provide adequate and consistent animal husbandry: feeding, cleaning and overall care
 - Ensure water is flowing into tank at an adequate rate
 - Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked
 - Observe the health of individuals
 - Remove dead animals, uneaten food and foreign organisms
 - Fill out animal husbandry logs, record mortalities and initial records
 - Clean tanks and sediments as needed
 - Feed as needed
 - Provide adequate and appropriate diets and feeding rates
 - Consider supplemental food for filter feeders (HMSC seawater is filtered to 50µm)

End Point Disposition

- If possible, return and release Animals to the site of capture in accordance with collection permit requirements.
- Animals, if healthy, may be donated to the HMSC Visitor's Center depending on the Center's need and approval.
- If necessary, euthanize, double bag, freeze, and dispose of animals in the dumpster at the completion of Activities. Please note, death by anoxia and desiccation are unacceptable euthanasia methods.