

presented by the Principal Investigator (PI), the IACUC chair has correctly referred to the intent of federal requirements¹ and recommendations of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*² that social housing during quarantine would ultimately be less stressful on the macaques. After the quarantine period, the animals would be housed separately in adjacent cages during the experimental phase of their tenure at Great Eastern University.

In the absence of overt incompatibility upon their arrival at Great Eastern, maintaining the animals in the pairing configuration initiated by the vendor best minimizes the stresses of shipment and the subsequent quarantine period^{1,2}.

When the animals are released from quarantine, the PI can initiate individual housing of her animals during the acclimation period² in the animal holding room(s) before her research studies begin. Then implementing the recommendations of the IACUC chair to house the animals adjacent to one another and supporting the environmental enrichment strategies^{1,2} in place at Great Eastern should result in experimental conditions that minimize environmental stressors and concomitantly maximize animal well-being among the macaques assigned to her protocol.

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1. Animal Welfare Act. Public Law 89-544. 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.
 2. Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* 8th edn. (National Research Council, Washington, DC, 2011).

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RESPONSE

Scientific justification required

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The IACUC chair should stand firmly with the decision of the IACUC and Attending Veterinarian (AV). The Principal Investigator did not present any scientific evidence to support her request to house the primates individually during quarantine. Furthermore, she is relatively new to the use of primates in research and may not have as much experience as the IACUC and AV regarding the amount of stress primates experience during shipping and quarantine. The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states, “If it is necessary to house animals singly – for example, when justified for experimental purposes, for provision of

veterinary care, or for incompatible animals – this arrangement should be for the shortest duration possible”¹. The Animal Welfare act states, “Social grouping. The environmental enhancement plan must include specific provisions to address the social needs of nonhuman primates of species known to exist in social groups in nature. Such provisions must be in accordance with currently accepted professional standards, as cited in appropriate professional journals or reference guides, and as directed by the attending veterinarian”². The decision of the IACUC and AV to continue pair-housing during quarantine is in compliance with these guidelines. The IACUC could suggest to Wright that she support any future requests for single housing with scientific data (such as corticosteroid levels) comparing primates housed in social groups or pairs during quarantine and then separated afterwards with primates housed individually during quarantine.

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1. Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* 8th edn. (National Research Council, Washington, DC, 2011).
 2. Animal Welfare Act. Section 3.81 (a).

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