

Food Storage Guidelines

Reapproved by UCAR 7/20/22

To maintain wholesomeness, animal diets must be maintained under conditions as recommended by the manufacturer.

Standard diets must be used within six months of the mill date. Test diets often have a shorter shelf life. If you wish to freeze a test diet to extend the shelf life, obtain a letter from the manufacturer stating how long the food will remain wholesome under these conditions. Maintain the letter with the diet for review by UCAR and/or external agencies.

Animal diets or food treats stored by investigators in their lab or in the vivarium must be kept off the floor in air tight containers away from animal carcasses and chemicals. Storage areas must be cool and dry. Food must be labeled with the diet name, manufacture date (mill date) and expiration date. In storage areas used by multiple PIs, the diet should also be labeled with the investigator's name. Diet cards are available in the Animal Resource Office.

If the food item is a human foodstuff, it must be labeled "not for human consumption". Bulk food items (sunflowers seeds, peanuts) should be labeled with a six month expiration date after purchase. Expired food items or items beyond the "best used by" date cannot be given to laboratory animals.

If you have any questions, please contact the UCAR office or the Animal Resource Office.