

## Scientific Justification for Pain Category E

Hamsters, a widely accepted model for acute leptospirosis, are exquisitely sensitive to *Leptospira* infection. The primary early symptom of infection is weight loss. To minimize distress, we have set a very conservative cut-off for weight loss (8-12%) as an indicator of potentially lethal infection. Animals that lose >12% will be euthanized. However, it is possible that some animals may succumb to infection very quickly even with careful monitoring. For this reason, we have placed hamsters used for *Leptospira* infection studies in Category E.