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Attachment to APHIS Form 2023 VA Health Care System, Minneapolis, MN

Summary of exceptions to the standards and regulations under the Act

November 19, 2012

The following exceptions to the standards and regulations under the Animal Welfare Act are approved by the IACUC. All exceptions were scientifically justified by the investigator as part of the approval process and judged by the IACUC to be appropriate for the study in question.

Restraint: Rhesus monkeys used in neurophysiology research are seated in a chair for up to five hours at a time. The purpose is to record the activity of neurons during complex activities. A total of thirteen monkeys during FY2012 were affected. This number includes five animals that were euthanized at the conclusion of their study participation. Additionally, three new monkeys were added to our research colony during FY2012 for these studies and have undergone some chair restraint training.

Multiple major surgical procedures: There are two approved protocols that involve multiple surgical procedures. The first involves rhesus monkeys. A recording device is implemented in two stages, 2-3 weeks apart. Two animals per year were affected. The second protocol involves swine used in studies of blood flow to the heart. Two surgeries are performed 10-12 weeks apart to create different amounts of blood supply to the heart. Nine animals per year were affected.

Fluid restriction: Rhesus monkeys are trained to perform tasks by using fluid as a reward for the correct response during a training session. Six animals per year were affected.