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UConn HEALTH

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Painful Procedures List

Painful Procedures used in Research Laboratory Animals

The IACUC has reviewed commonly performed procedures and has classified those procedures into pain categories.

Pain Category B (breeding and housing)

- Breeding only
- Housing only

Pain Category C (momentary pain or distress)

- Alert animals (behavioral observation or brief restraint)
- Anesthetize and release for non-invasive procedures (e.g., imaging, bandage change)
- Change in environmental parameters (e.g., diet, light cycle, room temperature if within thermoneutral zone)
- Chemical carcinogen use (e.g., BrdU)
- Euthanasia with or without tissue/organ harvest
- Food restriction that results in weight loss of <20% of normal age-matched controls
- Gavage
- Irradiation (sublethal or with reconstitution)
- Non-surgical collection of body fluids (blood, urine, etc.) unless otherwise categorized
- Radioisotope use
- Simple injections (IP, IV, SubQ, etc.)
- Tail biopsy for genotyping prior to or at weaning
- Use as a parasitic host

Pain Category D (more than momentary pain or distress for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs will be used)

- Antibody production: polyclonal (non-ascites, no footpad injections)
- Burns
- Diagnostic procedures (e.g., laparoscopy, needle biopsy)
- Electric shock with escape
- Introduction of illness (including the administration of toxins, microbiological agents, clinical transgenic phenotypes) with pain relief

Lavage

- Non-survival surgery
- Physical trauma
- Survival surgery
- Tail biopsy for genotyping on post-weaning animals
- Toxic substances use (e.g., streptozotocin, MPTP, cisplatin, doxycycline)
- Transgenic mouse production (embryo manipulations to produce novel strains, etc.)
- Tumor induction or implantation without metastasis
- Exposure of skin to UV light to induce sunburn with pain relief
- Exposure of blood vessels for catheterization
- Exsanguination or transcardial perfusion under anesthesia
- Forced exercise

Pain Category E (more than momentary pain or distress for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing agents are not used)

- Antibody production: ascites
- Death as an Endpoint or lethal dose studies
- Euthanasia by procedures not approved by AVMA Guidelines
- Exposure to extreme environmental temperatures
- Food restriction that results in weight loss of >20% of normal age-matched controls
- Food or water deprivation beyond that which is necessary for ordinary pre-surgical preparation
- Footpad injections (antibody production or microorganism)
- Genetically engineered animals with phenotype that causes pain or distress that will not or cannot be alleviated
- Housing outside thermoneutral zone
- Induction of arthritis with prolonged pain and discomfort
- Induction of illness (including the administration of toxins, LPS, microbiological agents without pain relief)
- Noxious stimuli from which there is no escape, including electric shock
- Ocular or skin irritancy tests
- Pain study
- Paralysis
- Total body irradiation (lethal or without reconstitution)
- Tumor production or implantation with metastasis
- Unusual or prolonged restraint (e.g., pie chamber, chair – 30 minutes or more in a conscious animal)
- Use of housing outside thermoneutral zone
- Withholding of post-operative analgesia for any surgical procedure for which analgesia is typically given

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DISCOVERY TO INNOVATION

