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		Interagency Report Control No. 0180-DOA-AN
		Fiscal year: FY2 020
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE Annual Report of Research Facility Column E Explanation (TYPE OR PRINT)		
This information is required by law (7 U.S.C. 2143 and 9 C.F.R. §2.36). Failure to report according to the regulations can result in an order to cease and desist.		
1. REGISTRATION NUMBER 14-R-0022	2. Research Facility Headquarters address 243 Charles Street Boston, MA 02114	
3. Number of animals used in the study. 5	4. Species (common name) of animals used in the study. Rabbit	
5. Explain the procedure producing pain and distress. <p style="text-align: center;">Please see next page as information would not fit in this box.</p>		
6. Provide the scientific justification for not providing the appropriate anesthetics, analgesics, or tranquilizing drugs during procedures where the animal experienced accompanying pain or distress greater than momentary or slight. <p style="text-align: center;">Please see next page as information would not fit in this box.</p>		
7. What, if any, Federal regulations require this procedure? Cite the agency, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) title number, and the specific section number (e.g., APHIS, 9 CFR 113, 102): <p style="text-align: center;">NA</p>		
Agency		CFR

COLUMN E EXPLANATION

Facility Name: Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary

FY 2020

Registration Number: 14-R-0022

Explanation of procedure(s) potentially producing pain and/or distress.

Restraint: During acoustic brain recordings, conscious rabbits are restrained in a Velcro jacket while the head is held in a fixed, forward facing position. Restraint is for a short period of time and all animals have been previously acclimated to accept the restraint procedure.

Deafening:

Some rabbits experience bilateral deafening for cochlear implantation; bilateral deafening may cause distress to the animal.

Feed schedule:

Some animals not provided food *ad libitum* and are food scheduled to motivate them to perform the behavioral task.

Explanation/scientific justification as to why alleviation to the potential for distress cannot be used.**Restraint:**

There is no alternative to performing acoustic neuronal measurements in conscious animals without restraint and withholding agents that would sedate or tranquilize them. All animals utilized for these studies are trained and acclimated well to the restraint and testing procedures described above. The animals do not appear distressed either during or following repeated measurements, however, if an animal shows signs of distress at any time during an experimental procedure, the experiment for that day is canceled.

Bilateral deafening is required on some of the rabbits in order to investigate the effect of complete auditory deprivation and bilateral electric stimulation on neural responses. Auditory stimulation is given to the animal through bilateral cochlear implants similar to those used in human infants.

Feed scheduling: Animals fed *ad libitum* do not perform well and are not motivated to complete the behavioral tasks needed for the study. Weights will be recorded before the onset of food scheduling and documented at least twice a week.

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