

**UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
REGISTRATION NUMBER: 87-R-0002
CURRENT IACUC EXCEPTIONS**

Date	IACUC#	Exceptions	Animal Numbers
10/19/14	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Surgery on Hamsters in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (not a dedicated surgery area)	242

At Utah State University survival animal surgery conducted upon animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act is performed within the surgical suite in the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Animals covered under USU (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) undergo survival surgery involving the surgical implantation of osmotic pumps, either alone or attached to intracranial cannulas, or involving laminectomy of the spine. Animals also undergo non-survival surgery associated with nerve conduction studies involving viral infection in the spinal cord. These animals are usually inoculated with viral pathogens prior to surgery, or occasionally may be inoculated with virus as part of the surgical event. Virus inoculated animals are not allowed outside of the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) due to biosafety concerns. Therefore, the USU IACUC granted an exception to the rule requiring surgery be performed in the surgical suite, and allowed the procedure to be done within the animal room.

When surgery is conducted within the animal room separate areas of the room are designated as surgery preparation and post-operative recovery. The surgical procedure itself is conducted within a Class II Biosafety cabinet. The pre- and post-operative area and the biosafety cabinet where surgery occurs are all cleaned and decontaminated with surface disinfectant prior to beginning surgery. For survival surgeries animals are prepared for surgery following standard veterinary practices and aseptic technique is used throughout the procedures. Non-survival surgeries may not use aseptic or sterile supplies, but clean equipment and supplies are used throughout the non-survival procedure. Post-surgically, animals are kept warm and observed until fully awake before being returned to their home cage. The surgical procedures, pain management procedures, and pre- and post-operative care was developed by the USU Attending Veterinarian, and all surgical training of research staff involved is done under the direct supervision of the Attending Veterinarian.

It was the consensus of the USU IACUC that maintaining biosafety was paramount. The IACUC granted an exception to the rule regarding location of surgery after it had been assured that every reasonable effort had been made to ensure the welfare of animals undergoing surgery.

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