

## Column E Explanation

This form is intended as an aid to complete the Column E explanation. It is not an official form and its use is voluntary. Annual Reports and explanations should NOT include PI information such as names (principal investigators and research staff), addresses, protocols, meeting notes (either in part or in full), the animals room numbers, grant information, veterinary care programs, and the like. A Column E explanation must be written so as to be understood by lay person as well as scientists.

1. Registration Number 48-R-0002, Customer ID Number: 1459
2. Number 484 of animals categorized as column E used in this study.
3. Species (common name) Prairie Voles of animals used in this study.
4. Explain the procedure producing pain and/or distress. Explanations should include a brief description of the procedure, but also explain what the animal's experience, examples of which may include, but are not limited to: Neurological signs, seizures, tremors, paralysis, lethargy, inappetence, respiratory signs, GI distress, vomiting and diarrhea.

The overall scientific objectives of the research project are to evaluate the role that stress has on physiology, neurochemistry, and behavior associated with social behavior to determine the influence that stress has on sociality. In order to reach these objectives, prairie voles are utilized because of their unique social systems including mating induced formation of pair bond-related behaviors including partner preferences and selective aggression in prairie voles with male prairie voles displaying paternal behavior toward their own offspring or conspecific pups. These behaviors are modulated by stressful life events tested through various methodologies described in further detail below.

Animals involved in these specific experimental test methods are considered Category E due to the induced stress as part of the research objectives. They are unable to escape a known stressful situation that occurs for a duration longer than what is considered "momentary." Analgesics, topical antiseptics, and antibiotics are utilized for wounds incurred during these tests whenever possible as long as it does not interfere with study objectives. To minimize pain and distress from wounding, there is an established rubric to evaluate wound size and severity with the humane endpoint of euthanasia for significant wounding.

While there are additional experimental procedures considered Category E that prairie voles may be used for and are approved by the IACUC, there were no animals that underwent other experimental procedures during FY2021.