Attachment to APHIS FORM 7023

Explanation of Column E Procedures

Vanderbilt University Medical Center 63-R-0129
October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

1. The following protocol involves experiments reported in Column E. Experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) after determination of scientific justification.

M1900028 *Species Used: Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)*
Number Used: 8

Explain the procedure producing pain and/or distress. Provide scientific justification why pain and/or distress could not be relieved. State methods used to determine that pain and/or distress relief would interfere with test results.

Rabbits are fluid restricted for up to 72 hours to induce acute dehydration (10% body weight decrease). Animals are not expected to experience pain but may experience distress due to the inherent discomfort associated with dehydration. The purpose of the study is to characterize tissue changes in the larynx following acute dehydration in order to better understand the risk of vocal fold lesions associated with dehydration in humans and, in doing so, treat patients with vocal pathology more effectively. A literature search revealed no alternatives to dehydration that mimic the human condition. To provide relief through the provision of wet treats or administration of fluids would interfere with test results.

During the period of restriction, animals were observed by researchers and/or veterinarians every 6-10 hours. At each timepoint, subjective (e.g. activity level, clinical appearance) and objective (e.g. body weight, hematocrit) measurements of welfare and hydration were collected. All animals completed the study without showing significant signs of pain or distress.

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):

Agency: *Not applicable* CFR: *Not applicable*

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