



Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Policy on Experimental and Humane Endpoints

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define what the Oakland University IACUC considers experimental and humane endpoints so they are appropriately addressed in the animal use protocol to ensure that pain/distress is minimized per federal requirements.

Definitions

Experimental endpoint – occurs when the study scientific aims and objectives have been reached.

Humane endpoint – the point at which pain and/or distress in an animal is prevented, terminated, or relieved.

Requirements

1. If the scientific aims of a study require that the Experimental endpoint extend past that of a Humane endpoint and pain and/or distress in an animal cannot be prevented, terminated, or relieved, additional justification and description in the animal use protocol must be provided.
2. In the database search for alternatives to procedures that might cause more than momentary pain or distress section of the animal use protocol, search terms must include phrases pertinent to technique, procedure, or surgery causing the pain or distress. If an alternative or more humane endpoint exists, then a justification as to why the alternative or more humane endpoint cannot be utilized must be addressed in the Application for Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching or Testing.
3. Experiments that necessitate unrelieved pain and/or distress as approved by the IACUC must be clearly identified to care staff at the cage level in the Biomedical Research Support Facility (BRSF).

Applicable Regulations

1. Animal Welfare Act (AWA, Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.)
2. Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR, 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A)
3. Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
4. National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011
5. AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals
6. The Federation of Animal Science Societies *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*

References

1. *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th ed., NRC, ILAR 2011.
2. The Ohio State University, IACUC Policy on Experimental and Humane Endpoints, 2015.

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