

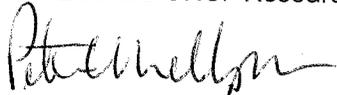
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7400 Merton Minter Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas 78284

RESEARCH SERVICE
MEMORANDUM 06-18

September 8, 2006

ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM

Prolonged Restraint

1. PURPOSE: To establish policy and procedures for the use of prolonged restraint.
 2. POLICY: All procedures will be conducted in compliance with all regulatory guidelines and approved protocols.
 3. PROCEDURES:
 - A. Animals can be physically restrained briefly either manually or with restraint devices. Restraint devices should be suitable in size, design, and operation to minimize discomfort or injury to the animal.
 - B. Prolonged restraint should be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives and is approved by the IACUC. Less-restrictive systems that do not limit an animal's ability to make normal postural adjustments should be used when compatible with protocol objectives. When restraint devices are used, they should be specifically designed to accomplish research goals that are impossible or impractical to accomplish by other means or to prevent injury to animals or personnel. The following guidelines for restraint will be used:
 - (1) Restraint devices are not to be considered normal methods of housing.
 - (2) Restraint devices should not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
 - (3) The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
 - (4) Animals to be placed in restraint devices should be given training to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
 - (5) Provision should be made for observation of the animal at appropriate intervals, as determined by the IACUC.
 - (6) Veterinary care should be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illnesses, or severe behavioral change often necessitates temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint.
 - C. All details of prolonged restraint procedures must be included in the animal protocol for the IACUC review. The IACUC will request additional details or justification as required to meet the above guidelines.
 4. REFERENCES: PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 1996
 5. RESCISSIONS: Research Service Memorandum 03-18, dated March 18, 2003.
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PETER MELBY, M.D.
ACOS for Research and Development
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