

March 10, 2019

ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM

Surgery

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish policy for surgery within the Veterinary Medical Unit (VMU).
2. **POLICY:** All surgical procedures will be conducted in compliance with regulatory guidelines, established VMU procedures, and approved research protocols.
3. **ACTION:**
 - a. **MONITORING:** The Veterinary Medical Consultant (VMC) ultimately oversees the surgical program. The VMU Supervisor is responsible for day to day operation of the surgical facility.
 - b. **PRESURGICAL PLANNING:** Investigators are required to consult with the VMC prior to submission of a protocol
 - (1) Surgical plan is reviewed for (A) feasibility of the animal model; (B) surgical expertise required; (C) personnel/training required; (D) surgical facilities; and (E) pre- and post-op medications/care.
 - (2) After approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the investigator and/or his technician should meet with the VMU supervisor to coordinate all facets of the surgical protocol. All survival and non-survival surgeries are conducted within VMU surgical suites.
 - c. **TRAINING:** Investigators and their technicians performing surgery on any animal are required to complete the web-based Collaborative Initiative Training Institute (CITI) training for the appropriate species.
 - d. **MAJOR AND MINOR PROCEDURES:**
 - (1) Major survival surgery - "penetrates and exposes a body cavity or produces substantial impairment of physical or physiologic functions".
 - (2) Minor survival surgery - "does not expose a body cavity and causes little or no physiological impairment."
 - (3) Non-survival surgery - an animal is euthanized before recovery from anesthesia.
 - (4) All non-survival procedures are performed under aseptic techniques.
 - e. **ASEPTIC PROCEDURES:**
 - (1) Animal – hair shaved, aseptic prep with alternating povidone and alcohol solution, and sterile drapes. Sterile gown, gloves, and mask should be worn by research personnel
 - (2) Methods used to sterilize instruments and protective clothing: Steam is used to sterilize equipment, protective clothing and drapes. Packs are double wrapped and taped with steam indicator autoclave tape and dated at time of sterilization. Routine sterilization cycles run thirty minutes at 250° degrees Fahrenheit. The autoclave function is checked with Dart (Steris) indicator monthly.

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f. **POSTSURGICAL ACTIONS:** The VMC is responsible for postoperative care of all species. Postsurgical rats and mice are returned to clean micro isolator cages, placed on circulating heat and water blankets, and observed until fully recovered. Analgesics are administered as required. The investigator maintains records on postsurgical care.

g. **RODENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES:** Rodent surgical procedures are performed in R221, R222 and R227. VMU technicians and the VMU supervisor have attended the surgical workshop at the Texas Veterinary Medical Center and the Internal Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium.

h. **MULTIPLE SURVIVAL SURGERIES:** In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, "no animal will be used in more than one major operative procedure from which it is allowed to recover unless:

(1) It is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the principal investigator (in the Animal Component of the Research Proposal (ACORP) or UTHSCSA animal protocol) and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

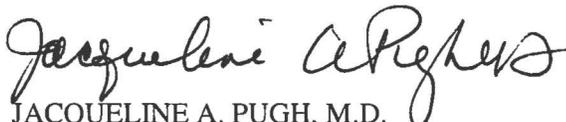
(2) or is required as routine veterinary procedure or to protect the health or well-being of the animal as determined by the attending veterinarian.

4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** Investigators will be responsible for compliance with animal guidelines.

5. **REFERENCES:** NIH "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals; 8th edition; The Animal Welfare Act and Regulations, "Blue Book" (January 2017).

6. **RECISSION:** Research Service Memorandum 15-09, January 15, 2015.

7. **RECERTIFICATION:** March 2024



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