

HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
Research Department Policy Manual

Name: Guidelines for Assigning Animals into
USDA Pain and Distress Categories

Policy# IACUC 120

Effective Date: 3/2013

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GENERAL

Purpose: To Provide guidelines for researchers so they understand and pick the pain and distress category appropriate for their study.

Administration: The IACUC is responsible for the continued review and revision of this policy

Policy: To comply with Federal regulations with regard to pain and distress category and the administration of pain relieving medication when applicable.

PROCEDURE

The Principal Investigator (PI) when writing a protocol using live animals should review the Guidelines for Assigning Animals into USDA Pain and Distress Categories table at the end of this document.

USDA Pain and distress categories are as follows:

Category B - Animals being bred, acclimatized, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes. Animals in which there is Non-invasive observation only.

Category C – Animal experiences no more than momentary or slight pain or distress and no use of pain-relieving drugs or no pain or distress.

Category D - Pain or distress appropriately relieved with anesthetics, analgesics and/or tranquilizers drugs or other methods for relieving pain or distress.

Category E - Pain or distress or potential pain or distress that is NOT relieved with anesthetics, analgesics and/or tranquilizer drugs to other methods for relieving pain or distress

Most protocols have procedures that are in different categories. The correct category to use is the category in which the most painful procedure is categorized in the guidelines. In cases where pain cannot be

alleviated, the pain category will be Category E. The PI will need to provide justification as to why pain alleviating procedures / medications cannot be used.

In cases where there is a discrepancy as to what USDA pain category should be assigned, the Clinical Veterinarian makes the final decision. If members of the IACUC disagree with the Clinical Veterinarian's decision, it will be noted in the minutes and the dissenting member(s) can write a minority opinion and submit it to Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW).

REFERENCES:

Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals:

National Institutes of Health, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. Public Health Service: *Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8/7/02). Section IV: Implementation by Institutions. Retrieved from

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm#AnimalWelfareAssurance>

Committee for the Update of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, Division on Earth and Life Studies, National Research Council of the National Academies. (c2011). Animal Care and Use Program. In *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th ed. (Chapter 2). Retrieved from:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-care-and-use-of-Laboratory-animals.pdf>

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9 (Animals and Animal Products), Subchapter A - Animal Welfare, Part 2 - Regulations, (3/22/13). Retrieved from

http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title09/9cfr2_main_02.tpl

Guidelines for Assigning Animals into USDA Pain and Distress Categories

Category B	Category C	Category D	Category E
Animals being bred, acclimatized, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery but not yet used for such purposes. Animals in which there is Non-invasive observation only	No more than momentary or slight pain or distress and no use of pain-relieving drugs or no pain or distress.	Pain or distress appropriately relieved with anesthetics, analgesics and/or tranquilizers drugs or other methods for relieving pain or distress.	Pain or distress or potential pain or distress that is NOT relieved with anesthetics, analgesics and/or tranquilizer drugs to other methods for relieving pain or distress Note: Protocols in this category are heavily scrutinized. Justification and documentation must be provided for IACUC approval
Examples of Procedures under this Category	Examples of Procedures under this Category	Examples of Procedures under this Category	Examples of Procedures under this Category
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding or Holding Colony Protocols • Observation of animals without manipulation or changes in the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euthanasia for tissues • Positive reward projects • Routine procedures injections and blood sampling • Holding or weighing animals • Observation of animal behavior • Ear punching and/or tagging of rodents • Tail snips in mice ≤ 21 days old • Perfusion with anesthesia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival surgery • Non-survival surgical procedures • Laparoscopy or needle biopsies • Retro-orbital blood collection • Dissection of blood vessels for catheter implantation • Antibody production • Tattooing • Tail snips in mice > 21 days old • Genetically engineered animals phenotype that causes pain or distress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research projects that pain or distress relieving medication(s) interfere with scope of the project and has being justified and approved by IACUC. • Genetically engineered animals that causes pain or distress that will not be alleviated due to the nature of the research and has been justified with appropriate documentation and approved by IACUC

This is not a complete list of procedures. Principal Investigators should consult with the Clinical Veterinarian for Clarification