

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-5815**
Service: **Research**
Operating Section: **IACUC**
Unit: **LUC/HSD**
Title: **Humane Intervention and Endpoints**

Purpose:

To establish humane endpoints used to determine when an animal will be euthanized.

Procedure:

Experimental studies may involve procedures that cause mortality or clinical symptoms of morbidity in animals. The Principal Investigator and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must consider the selection of the most appropriate endpoint(s).

- 1) Federal Guidelines require that endpoints are determined for animals used in research. This requires careful consideration of the anticipated adverse effects the research animals may experience.
- 2) The Principal Investigator must address in the IACUC protocol the normal fate of the animals in the study and justify any abnormal and unexpected outcomes.
- 3) Abnormal and unexpected outcomes include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Weight loss or failure of young animals to gain weight,
(1) Animals lose body weight temporarily after a surgical procedure. A chronic weight loss of more than 15% is a criteria for euthanasia. Records must be available to the veterinarian for evaluation.
 - b) Inappetance, anorexia, or inability to feed and obtain water,
 - c) Weakness, ataxia, behavioral depression, seizures, paralysis, refractory pain, inability to stand, self-wounding,
 - d) Low body temperature, dyspnea, cyanosis,
 - e) Tumor growth or burden,
(1) Please refer to SOP, "Use of Rodents in Neoplasia and Ascites Production".
 - f) Problems refractory to medical intervention; including infection, non-healing wounds, fractures, etc.
 - g) Blood loss vomiting diarrhea, and/or other discharges,
 - h) Surgical emergencies and/or failures of similarly complex procedures and treatments.
- 4) Death as not an acceptable experimental endpoint unless clear justification is provided to the IACUC.

Responsible Official		Date	
QA Signature		Date	
Version	Effective Date	Supersedes	Original Date