



FOOD AND FLUID RESTRICTION

Overview/Purpose

Certain experimental paradigms require the use of food or water restriction in order to accomplish studies such as operant conditioning work and nutritional studies. The IACUC is required to approve these restrictions to ensure they are scientifically justified, minimize the level of restriction, and have criteria in place to monitor the health of animals on these studies.

Note that pre-surgical food restriction is detailed in the surgery procedure as part of the animal use protocol, and does not need specific justification. In addition, agricultural studies are excluded from this policy.

Definitions

Restriction – food or fluid consumed is monitored or controlled

Requirements

1. Animal use protocols employing food or water restriction must provide the duration of restriction, level of restriction, and justification for the restriction as part of the protocol description.
2. The early removal criteria must provide methods to assess the animal's health while on restriction. Typically this will require a frequent monitoring method such as daily weighing of the animal.
3. Communication on when the restriction begins and ends must be indicated at the cage level.

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

History of Revisions

033-00 - new policy approved 04/18/08

033-01 – reformatting the policy into the new template is reflected in this revision and a requirement for indicating the restriction at the cage level was added; approved 10/16/15