PROLONGED PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Overview/Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define what the OSU IACUC considers prolonged restraint and thereby requires additional justification and description in the animal use protocol to ensure that pain and/or distress is minimized per federal requirements.

Definitions:

1. **Physical Restraint** – Physical restraint is the use of manual or mechanical means to limit some or all of an animal’s normal movement for the purpose of examination, collection of samples, drug administration, or experimental manipulation.

2. **Prolonged Restraint** - Restriction of normal postural adjustment of awake animals for greater than (> 60 minutes.

Requirements:

1. The use of prolonged physical restraint must be described in the IACUC Protocol in the protocol activities section.
2. Alternatives to physical restraint should be considered and prolonged restraint should be avoided unless it is essential for achieving research objectives. In the database search for alternatives to procedures that might cause more than momentary pain or distress section of the animal use protocol, terms must include the phrase “prolonged restraint” or similar terms in the search.
3. The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
4. Animals should be acclimated or habituated to the restraint methods and animals that fail to habituate to the restraint should be removed from study.
5. Animals should be frequently monitored or observed during the restraint period and the frequency and method of monitoring should be described in the protocol.

Applicable Regulations


History of Revisions

024-00 - new policy approved 10/2002
024-01 – Definition of prolonged restraint increased from 15 minutes to 60 minutes. Additional information about the design of restraint devices was added. Approved on 11/17/2006
024-02 – Reformatted into a new template. Requirements for stress restraint models were removed and are approved by IACUC in the protocol. Approved on 03/27/2015; reviewed with no changes 01/19/2018
024-03 – Policy was revised to define physical restraint and the requirements 2, 3, 4, and 5 were added; Approved 11/20/2020