



FOOD AND FLUID RESTRICTION

Overview/Purpose

Certain experimental paradigms require the use of food or water restriction. The IACUC is required to review these restrictions to ensure they are scientifically justified, minimize the level of restriction necessary to achieve the scientific goal, and have criteria in place to monitor the health of animals on these studies.

Note that pre-anesthetic fasting, when indicated, will be determined in consultation with the clinical veterinarian and does not require additional justification.

Definitions

Restriction – food or fluid consumption is limited for experimental paradigms

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 in regard to when the restriction begins and ends must be indicated at the cage level.

Applicable Regulations

- National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011
- Animal Welfare Act (AWA, Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C.)
- Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR, 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A)

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

033-02 –revisions made to the definition of restriction; replacing the words monitored and controlled with limited; approved 07/20/18

034-03 – definition for restriction was revised to include experimental paradigms; approved 07/16/21