

IACUC APPENDIX 1

PAIN AND DISTRESS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Categories of Research: investigator must specify the appropriate category of experimentation in Item E.

CATEGORY A — The research involves either no pain or potentially involves momentary, slight pain, discomfort or stress. Includes simple invasive procedures (e.g., injection, blood sampling), collection of tissues preceded by standard euthanasia, behavioral testing without stress.

CATEGORY B — The research potentially involves minor short-term pain, discomfort or distress which will be treated with appropriate anesthetics/analgesics. Includes minor survival surgery with anesthesia and without significant postoperative pain (e.g., biopsy), implantation of minor chronic catheters (e.g., femoral, arterial and venous catheters, flow probes, etc.), short-term physical restraint (<60 min.) of awake animals, induction of minor behavioral stress. Such procedures should not cause significant changes in the animal's appearance, in physiological parameters such as respiratory or cardiac rate, or fecal or urinary output, or in social responses.

CATEGORY C — The research involves terminal anesthetic surgery, chronic maintenance of animals with a disease/functional deficit and/or procedures potentially inducing moderate pain, discomfort or distress which will be treated with appropriate anesthetics/analgesics. Includes major survival surgery with anesthesia and/or inducement of a functional deficit (e.g., orthopedic surgery on femur, amputation, bowel resection, cardiac surgery, adrenalectomy, non-painful tumor inducement, use of immunological adjuvants), physical restraint (>60 min.) of awake animals, exposure of an animal to noxious stimuli from which escape is impossible, induction of more than minor behavioral stress.

Studies listed in Category C should not cause prolonged or severe clinical distress as may be exhibited by a wide range of clinical signs, such as marked abnormalities in behavioral patterns or attitudes, the absence of grooming, dehydration, abnormal vocalization, prolonged anorexia, circulatory collapse, extreme lethargy or disinclination to move, and clinical signs of severe or advanced local or systemic infection, etc.

CATEGORY D — The research potentially involves pain, discomfort or distress (greater than that attending a routine injection) which cannot/will not be treated with appropriate anesthetics/analgesics. Examples include pain research, radiation testing, use of muscle relaxants or paralytic drugs without anesthetics, toxicity testing and lifetime carcinogenesis experiments having death as the endpoint.

NOTE: *Although this classification system is current, changes in guidelines and in regulations are possible.*