

DREXEL UNIVERSITY ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

OBJECTIVE: To assure appropriate IACUC oversight of physical restraint of animals and to ensure humane care and use. Physical restraint is the use of manual or mechanical means to limit an animal's normal movement for such purposes as examination, collection of samples, and drug administration.

RESPONSIBILITY: The Investigator is responsible for ensuring that everyone working on an applicable protocol adheres to this policy.

PROCEDURE: Restricting the mobility of animals for a period exceeding 60 minutes in length is considered prolonged physical restraint and must be scientifically justified and receive prior approval from the IACUC. All procedures, including restraint must be described and approved by the IACUC.

Several principles must be adhered to:

- Restraint devices must not be considered a normal method of housing, and must be justified in the animal use protocol.
- Restraint devices must not be used simply as a convenience in handling or managing animals.
- Alternatives to physical restraint should be considered.
- The period of restraint should be the minimum required to accomplish the research objectives.
- Devices must be suitable in size, design, and operation to minimize discomfort and, whenever possible, they should minimize the extent of restraint. Depending on the species, animals should be trained (with positive reinforcement) to adapt to the equipment and personnel.
- Animals that fail to adapt should be removed from the study.
- Provision should be made for continuous observation of the animal while in the restraint device
 - Veterinary care must be provided if lesions or illnesses associated with restraint are observed. The presence of lesions, illness, or
 - severe behavioral change often necessitates the temporary or permanent removal of the animal from restraint.
 - The purpose of the restraint and its duration should be clearly explained to personnel involved with the study. Personnel should be adequately trained in the restraint procedure.

Approval date: December 2003
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