

## **GUIDELINES REGARDING RECORDKEEPING AND PERIOPERATIVE CARE AND MONITORING**

### **PURPOSE:**

In order to ensure adequate veterinary care, LU requires that appropriate medical records are kept to monitor operative care for research animals.

### **GUIDELINES:**

The Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate medical records are maintained for the animals involved in research. Any questions regarding the standards of animal care should be directed to the University Veterinarian.

### **MONITORING ANESTHETIC USE**

Depending on the species, complexity, and nature of the surgical procedure, the level of monitoring for procedures involving anesthesia can vary. Generally, the higher the potential for pain, distress, complexity, duration, or likelihood of a failed outcome, the higher the need for detailed monitoring.

#### *Monitoring Techniques:*

- Respiration
- Depth of anesthesia
  - Response to stimuli/reflexes
- Skin color
- Mucous membrane
- Blood oxygen saturation
- Heart rate
- ECG
- Blood Pressure

Any monitoring that takes place must be done so until the animal has fully recovered from anesthesia. Reasonable post-operative care including observation of the surgical site, appetite, and overall well-being must be performed. Any procedures involving anesthesia shall be done so with proper veterinary consultation.

### **METHODS OF RECORDKEEPING**

All aspects of the surgery must be recorded and monitored appropriately. This includes pre-operative assessment, anesthetic monitoring, post-anesthetic monitoring, and post-operative care. While a template is available for use on the IACUC website, personnel are encouraged to keep records in a manner that is most appropriate for the species and nature of the work.

Depending on the species, records may be kept individually or for a group of animals. For records on groups of animals, they must all be having the surgical procedure on the same day. Records must be kept in the animal housing room for ease of access.

**WHAT TO INCLUDE IN RECORDS**

*Surgical Records*

1. PI/Surgeon Responsible
2. IACUC Protocol Number
3. Species of Animal
4. Date of Procedure
5. Procedure Performed/Used
6. Any anesthetic agent used/route of administration (include dose and duration)
7. Any other drugs used/route of administration (include dose and duration)
8. Any noted complications involving anesthesia, surgery, or drug administration
9. Recovery observations
10. If using a group record, the total number of animals in the group
11. Any deviation from protocol

*Post-Op Records*

1. Any drugs used/route of administration
2. Observation of the incision site, activity, pain, excrement, appetite, etc.
3. Record of any suture removal

For additional guidance, refer to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* or the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations.