Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Clemson University

POLICY #25: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) POLICY ON MULTIPLE SURVIVAL SURGERIES ON A SINGLE ANIMAL

Purpose: The purpose of this IACUC Policy is to describe the procedure for review and approval of minor or major multiple survival surgical procedures.

Policy: While multiple major survival surgical procedures on a single animal are discouraged, exceptions may be made as indicated in this policy. The following definitions and policy are based on The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition.

Minor Survival Surgery does not penetrate and expose a body cavity and causes little or no physical impairment. Examples include, but are not limited to wound suturing, peripheral vessel cannulation, percutaneous biopsy, routine agricultural animal procedures such as castration, and most procedures routinely done on an "outpatient" basis in veterinary clinical practice. Animals recovering from these minor procedures typically do not show significant signs of postoperative pain, have minimal complications, and return to normal function in a relatively short time.

Major Survival Surgery penetrates and exposes a body cavity, produces substantial impairment of physical or physiologic functions, or involves extensive tissue dissection or transaction. Examples include but are not limited to laparotomy, thoracotomy, joint replacement, and limb amputation.

Approval for multiple major survival surgeries may be granted if either:
1. Scientifically justified by the PI
2. Essential to the objectives of a single research project.

Procedure for approval:
1. Categorization of a surgical procedure as major or minor will be done by the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC. The potential for pain and postoperative complications, the nature of the procedure, as well as, the size and location of the incisions, the duration of the procedure, the species, the health status of the animal, and the age of the animal will be considered.
2. Multiple minor survival surgical procedures may be approved using the IACUC Designated Member review process.
3. Multiple major survival surgical procedures must be approved using the IACUC Full Committee Review process.