University of Cincinnati

Policy for Non-Rodent USDA-Regulated Animal Survival Surgery

**Applicability**
These guidelines apply to all survival surgical procedures performed on non-rodent USDA-regulated animals (all animals excluding laboratory bred mice and rats; birds; ectotherms) at the University of Cincinnati.

**Regulatory Principles**
All survival surgery must be performed using aseptic techniques throughout the procedure.

**Required Surgical Attire**
- Mask
- Bonnet or surgical cap
- Shoe covers
- Sterile surgical gloves
- Sterile surgical gown

**Required Surgical Equipment**
- Sterilization indicators (e.g., autoclave tape, steam sterilization strips) are to be used on all sterilized equipment.
- Sterilization and expiration dates (max. 6 months) must be noted on sterilized equipment.
  - If beyond 6 months from the sterilization date – must be re-sterilized.

**Pre-Operative Procedures**
- Animals are fasted according to the approved IACUC protocol.
- Team members are to arrive prior to requested surgery table time.
  - Failure to arrive within a reasonable time period as determined by LAMS veterinary staff – surgery will be canceled and rescheduled (minimum of 48 hours).
- Pre-emptive analgesics, anesthetics, and surgical drugs are administered according to the approved IACUC protocol or as prescribed by the veterinarian.
- Initial patient preparation (e.g., hair removal, rough scrub) should be performed in an area separate from where surgery is performed.
- Experimental drugs are supplied by the research staff with advance notification to LAMS veterinary staff.
- Surgeon’s scrub - 5 minute scrub (hands and lower arms) or comparable prior to donning surgical attire.

**Operative Procedures**
- Final patient surgical preparation (per approved IACUC protocol) is performed in the surgery room.
• Surgical plane of anesthesia must be maintained throughout the procedure.
  o Anesthetist must be present at all times.
• Animal’s vital signs are monitored at least every 15 minutes.

Post-Operative Procedures
• Daily post-operative monitoring and care (including provision of analgesics) must be provided (approved IACUC protocol or veterinary instruction).
• Animal is to be moved to a warm, dry area and continuously monitored until sternal.
• Any surgical complications must be immediately reported to LAMS veterinary staff.
• Suture and/or staple removal is the responsibility of the research staff unless prior arrangements are made with LAMS veterinary staff.

Records for USDA-Regulated Animals
Records for survival surgeries must be maintained and must include:
• Date of surgery
• IACUC protocol number
• Principal Investigator’s name
• Surgeon’s name(s) or initials
• Animal species
• Animal identification
• Pre-procedural health assessment (e.g. weight, temperature, attitude)
• Analgesics and anesthetics administered, including dosage, route, and time administered
• Any drugs or supportive fluids administered
• Description of surgical procedure
• Surgical start and stop times
• Vital parameters (e.g., temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, mucous membrane color)

Requirements for Surgically Manipulated Animals by the Vendor
If animals have been surgically manipulated by the vendor prior to receipt at the University of Cincinnati (excluding routine castration), a copy of the animal’s individual animal health record must be obtained from the vendor.