Policy on Toe Clipping of Mice

*Toe Clipping of Mice*
According to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: “As a method of identification of small rodents, toe-clipping should be used only when no other individual identification method is feasible. It may be the preferred method for neonatal mice up to 7 days of age as it appears to have few adverse effects on behavior and well-being at this age (Castelhano-Carlos et al. 2010; Schaefer et al. 2010), especially if toe clipping and genotyping can be combined. Under all circumstances aseptic practices should be used. Use of anesthesia or analgesia should be commensurate with the age of the animals (Hankenson et al. 2008).”

When toe clipping is performed on altricial animals (7 days or younger) for the purpose of both identification AND to obtain tissue for PCR, additional justification and IACUC approval is not required.

Refer to Standard procedure in RAP entitled Genotyping and Identification for details.

References (Toe Clipping)