

Policy Prohibiting the Use of Electrical Heating Pads

Investigators who anesthetize animals for experimental manipulations (e.g. surgery, imaging, specimen collection) are encouraged to use a supplemental heat source in order to avoid hypothermia and to hasten recovery time. Because electrical heating pads have uneven temperature gradients across their surface and/or may malfunction, they can cause thermal injury. **Due to this potential hazard, the use of electrical heating pads is not permitted for any University of Rochester research animals.**

Alternative acceptable heating methods include: warm water blankets and circulators (e.g. Gaymar), forced air animal warmers (e.g. "Bair Huggers") , IV fluid warmers, hot water bottles, hot rice bottles, instant heating devices (e.g. "Safe and Warm") and placing a rodent cage on top of a slide warmer. Regardless of the method used, remember to monitor animals closely to ensure that they do not sustain a thermal injury or become hyperthermic. Place a drape or other protective material over the heat source to prevent direct contact with the animal. Investigators are also encouraged to monitor the animal's internal body temperature or the cage temperature for small rodents.

If you would like information about any heating methods, please contact the DLAM veterinary staff at X5-2651.

Effective March 16, 2007